Maine Farmer.

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Maine Farmer.

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S. L. BOARDMAN, Agricultural Editor.

Our Home, our Country and our Brother Man.

The Approaching Farmers' Convention.

The winter session of the Board of Agriculture commences at Winthrop on Tuesday of next week 14th inst. The session will embrace—in addition to the usual business of the Board, which does not generally occupy more than an hour or two each forenoon—a Farmers' Convention, in which it is expected farmers generally will participate in the discussions, following the lectures and addresses. The programme has been so far perfected that some idea can now be given of the manner in which the time will be filled up.

The Board will organize on Tuesday morning, and it is probable the greater part of the forenoon will be occupied with business matter of no general interest. The afternoon and evening will be devoted to the subject of Fruit Culture, to include if deemed advisable the formation of a State Fruit Growers' Society or Association to more completely further the advancement of this great interest of our agriculture. Business meetings of the Board will be held each morning at 9 o'clock. On Wednesday forenoon the Farmers' Convention will formerly open with an address of welcome from some prominent gentleman whose name has not yet been announced. This will be followed by an address from President Gilbert, in which he will treat of the changes in farm practice demanded by high priced labor, western competition and other conditions not formerly existing, to be followed by a discussion. The forenoon, afternoon and evening of each day will be devoted to lectures or addresses followed by a general discussion upon leading points in the same. Several members of the Board are to give lectures or present brief practical papers or essays. Among the prominent speakers already positively secured from abroad are Hon. Alexander Hyde of Massachusetts and Hon. Joseph B. Walker of Concord, N. H. Mr. Hyde is an agricultural editor, and gave the celebrated course of lectures on agriculture before the Lowell Institute at Boston, which were published in a volume in 1871. His subject at the coming meeting will be "Farm Buildings." Mr. Walker is a practical farmer, a gentleman of culture and scholarly attainments, and is one of New England's representative agriculturists. Correspondence is being had with other parties, and it is possible some of them may be engaged. The subject announced as forming the topic of Mr. Gilbert's address will form the staple of discussion—the subject not being fully considered at the Skowhegan meeting—and farmers who design being present should be prepared to express their views upon it, as ample opportunity will be given for as many as desire to take part in the discussions.

Among the leading features of this session will be a Fruit Conference, and possibly the formation of a State Pomological Society. The address of the committee appointed at the Skowhegan meeting to prepare such a paper, appears in this issue of the FARMER, and to it we ask the attention of all interested in the subject of which it treats. The soil and climate of a large portion of our State are especially adapted to the growing of apples for transportation, and these advantages should be improved to their fullest extent. We need an active, vigorous Society for promoting this object, and we confidentially believe such a Society may be made the means of extending this most important branch of our rural economy and rendering fruit culture, as it should be, the crop producing our largest revenue. We sincerely hope such a Society will be formed, officered by energetic, capable men and go forward to occupy the fruitful field open for its operations.

This is the last word we can have with our readers previous to the opening of the meeting next Tuesday. We hope the farmers of old Kennebec will turn out in good numbers and show by their attendance their interest in the advancement of agriculture, and prove themselves worthy of their old-time ancestors of Kennebec and Winthrop, who were among the foremost in New England to establish agricultural societies and agricultural journals, and to read agricultural books.

Seeds and Bulbs by Mail.

Probably many of our readers were aware of the change in the postage charged on seeds and bulbs made by the new postal code of the last session of Congress. The former rates of two cents for four ounces were doubled, while the quantity to be sent in a single parcel was reduced from four pounds to twelve ounces. This retrogressive step was a great surprise to the seedsmen and the agriculturists of the country, and we are glad to see they found an efficient friend in Gen. B. F. Butler of Massachusetts, who under a suspension of the rules, introduced a bill restoring the law to its old basis. Though oppressed by the chairman of the committee on post office matters, the General presented his points with characteristic energy and carried them by a handsome majority. The Senate has since taken action in the same direction, and there is great probability that very soon, the law will be restored on its old basis, with possibly the change that the unit shall be two pounds instead of four.

The Scientific American.

This journal has been published twenty-seven years, and is perhaps better known than almost any similar publication in the world. Its contents embrace the latest and most interesting information pertaining to the industrial, mechanical and scientific progress of the world; descriptions, with engraving of new inventions, new implements, new processes, and improved industries of all kinds; useful notes, facts, receipes, suggestions and advice, by practical writers, for workmen and employers, in all the various arts, with the latest discoveries in photography, chemistry, new and useful application of chemistry in the arts and household and domestic economy. It is too well known to need any commendation from us, and we advise all artizans and others who wish to keep up with the industrial progress of the times to subscribe for it. Terms $3.00 per year. Munn & Co., publishers, 37 Park Row, New York City.

☞ At the York Co. Fair last fall, Mr. Jere H. Taylor of Kennebunk, exhibited a pair of seven-year-old oxen weighing 3750 pounds, one of the pair weighing 2035; also another yoke of the same age weighing 3260 pounds. Old Kennebec must look to its laurels.

New England Agriculture in 1775.

An English View of It.

In 1775 a work in two volumes entitled "American Husbandry; Containing an account of the Soil, Climate, Production and Agriculture of the British Colonies in North America, West Indies," was printed for "J. Bew, in Pater-noster-Row." This work professes to have been written by "An American," but we are unable to determine who the author was, as the work is not mentioned by Loudon in either his Bibliography of English or American works. The author appears to have written from a personal observation, and his remarks show that he was practically acquainted with every branch of farming and rural economy then performed, as well in the mother country as the colonies. His work begins with a survey of Nova Scotia and Canada, following with New England, New York, the Carolinas, Georgia, East and West Florida, Ohio, Illinois, and concluding with the Bahamas, Barbadoes, Jamaica, observations on the Importance of the American Colonies to Britain, and the advantages and disadvantages of settling in them compared with Great Britain and Ireland. Some of our author's statements and observations concerning New England agriculture are worth reading at this time, even as a curiosity if for nothing else. He describes the climate of New England as "having vastly improved since the country has been cleared of wood and brought under cultivation. The cold in winter is less intense, the air in summer purer, and the country in general much more wholesome." He then says that notwithstanding New England is the oldest of the American colonies, the richest parts of it yet remain to be granted. "The north part of New Hampshire, the province of Main, and the territory of Sagadahock, have but few settlements in them compared with the tracts yet unsettled, and they have the advantage of many excellent ports, long navigable rivers, with all the natural advantages that are found in other parts of this province. In the province of Main, particularly on the rivers which fall into the sea near Brunswic, there are many settlements made by Germans who have come over since the war. Ships come very regularly to all the ports on this coast to take in loadings of corn, salted provisions and lumber for the West Indies, by which means the farmers (who are also engaged pretty deeply in the fishery on these coasts) have a ready opportunity of conveying all their surplus products to a regular market—the great thing wanted in Canada. But still these northern coasts of Main and Sagadahock, are under the fatal influence of that freezing climate, which is bad enough in the fourth parts of New England, but here approaches to the severity of Nova Scotia, though not so much involved in fogs."

Proceeding to the particulars of the husbandry of the province, he begins with the crops remarking: "The crops commonly cultivated are, first maize, which is the grand product of the country, and upon which the inhabitants principally feed. It is not however to the exclusion of common wheat, which in a few districts is cultivated with success." Barley, oats, flax, peas, beans, tares and apples are then considered. "The cattle," he says, "are the same as in Great Britain; cows, oxen, horses, sheep and hogs. They have large dairies, which succeed quite as well as in Old England; oxen they fat to nearly as great a size; their mutton is good; and the wool which their sheep yield is long but coarse, but they manufacture it into coarse cloths that are the common and only wear of the province, except the gentry who purchase their fine cloths of Britain." In speaking of the value of land he says: "Near Boston there are lands worth twenty shillings per acre." He says that "poor, strolling and ragged beggars are scarcely ever to be seen," that the people appear to be "well fed, clothed, and lodged," and that a traveller "might pass half through the colony without finding, from the appearof the people, that there was such a thing as a want of money among them." "Men marry very young," he observes, "and where land is in such plenty, men very soon become farmers, however low they set out in life." Among the advantages of settling in New England "is that of being exempted from the payment of tythes and rates for the support of the poor which in Britain make a vast deduction from the product of an estate." He makes some useful suggestions on the "errors in the rural management of New England," deserving mention at another time.

Editorial Notes.

J. Emery Mallet, Esq., of Topsham,—one of the most prominent farmers of the county—has been elected to represent Sagadahoc at the Board of Agriculture. He will make an active, working member.

Mr. H. A. Sherburn of Prospect informs us that the Naked Limb Greening, which is only known in a few towns in that vicinity, was introduced by Rev. Johnson Hall of Frankfort something like forty or fifty years since, who brought the scions it is supposed from New Jersey. Mr. Sherburn thinks our correspondent is in error in attributing the introduction of this apple to Mr. Goodale of Orington.

Hon. Joshua Nye of this city, Commissioner of the U. S. Centennial Exhibition, favors us with two samples of wheat grown by Andrew J. Dufur of Portland, Oregon. The one is winter wheat weighing sixty-six pounds to the bushel, fifty-one and one-fourth bushels being grown to the acre. The other is spring wheat, weighing the same per bushel, forty-seven and one-half bushels being harvested from the acre. We think them the handsomest specimens of this cereal we ever saw.

The writer of the article to which we alluded a few weeks since on the breeding of thoroughbreds, wishes us to ask if there is one breeder of full blood Herefords or Short-horns in Maine who does not save every animal he raises or that is born alive on his farm, for breeding purposes either for himself or somebody else? He believes such a course wrong, and wants to know who among our readers does not practice it.

To Writers on Vegetable Pathology.

By making known through the *American Journal of Science and Arts*, the prize of Five Hundred Dollars, for the best essay on the Potato disease and its prevention—the Royal Agricultural Society thereby solicits competition from American writers, and if any wish to know the conditions of competition they can obtain them by addressing the Secretary of the Society H. M. Jenkins, 12 Hanover Square, London, W., England. It would not at all astonish us to see this prize, offered by Earl Cathcont, President of the Society, won by an American writer; and we most sincerely hope some of them will try for it.

Communications.

For the Maine Farmer.

To the Fruit Growers of Maine.

At the meeting of the Board of Agriculture and Farmers' Convention, held at Skowhegan, in October last, the undersigned were appointed a Committee to issue an Address to the people of Maine, to be published in the MAINE FARMER, with a request that all other newspapers in the State publish the same, and that all persons interested in encouraging and promoting the cultivation of Fruit be requested to meet in Convention with said Board at its next meeting, which is to be holden in Winthrop on the 14th to 17th of January, 1873, for the purpose of discussing the propriety, and if deemed expedient, of organizing a State Pomological Society. And we would urge upon all who are interested in the growth and prosperity of the State, to avail themselves of this opportunity to aid in promoting this most important interest.

It is believed by said Committee that there is no other branch of Agriculture or Horticulture which can be made more profitable than Fruit culture.

Much of the climate and soil of Maine is well adapted to the growth of apples, while the quality and texture of our apples are not surpassed by those of any other State in the Union; they are more hardy for transportation, and less liable to decay; that it requires but a few years to obtain a good orchard, and bring it into bearing; and after it arrives at this stage, the expense in taking care of it and keeping it in bearing order is very small in comparison with the profits; that it is believed that the labor and expense of raising and marketing twenty-five bushels of potatoes is fully equal to the labor and expense of marketing one hundred bushels of good grafted apples, and that while the average price of potatoes is about fifty cents a bushel, the average price of such apples is about one dollar; that while you realize only $12.50 for your potatoes, you realize $100 for your apples—eight times as much as you do for the potatoes; and potatoes have been regarded by many of our farmers one of the most profitable of crops.

It may be said by some that if our farmers make orcharding a specialty, they will overstock the market. It is believed there is no danger of that, for the greater the production the more extended will be the market, for their quality and durability will give them a preference over those raised in a warmer climate.

What we want is an organization that will excite an interest which will be the means of bringing into cultivation a still better quality of winter apples than we now have. We have most excellent fall and early winter, but we lack in good late winter apples; we believe these can be obtained through an active and efficient organization.

Many of our old orchards are becoming scraggy, mossy, and unproductive — we believe by proper cultivation they can again be brought into a profitable state of bearing; that such an organization can do much good by meeting and discussing the best mode of bringing this about.

There are many other kinds of fruit which can be produced in Maine with great profit, but the mode of raising them needs to be discussed and better understood, and this can be done with such an organization.

The next meeting of the Board of Agriculture and Farmers' Convention is to be held in the center of a great fruit growing region, and should call together the leading fruit-growers of the State; and said Committee, in view of the importance of the subject matter, feel it to be their duty to urge upon all who feel an interest in this luxurious as well as may-be profitable branch of industry to be present at said meeting, and with their experience and efforts aid in bringing about such an organization. Now is the time to commence the work—this year, and not wait for the next. The putting out an orchard is like putting money at compound interest; the great increase is not at first, but is when the interest becomes as great per annum as the principal; therefore the sooner we start, the sooner will the interest compound the principle.

Much needed information in relation to nomenclature could also be disseminated by such a Society. And also valuable new varieties of fruit of all kinds could be brought to notice.

Fruit growers of Maine, do you wish to assist in bring about so desirable results? Then attent this meeting. There will be no organization made unless the attendance and the spirit manifested, is such as will warrant an active, influential, and useful Society. Committee, Z. A. GILBERT, JAMES A. VARNEY, A. L. SIMPSON.

For the Maine Farmer.

Gargot.

There are many bovine disorders, insidious, deceptive and malignant, which extend rapidly, carry infection, and fill the public mind with alarm for the safety of farm stock. Those which have excited the most apprehension, are Spanish fever, foot and mouth disease, pluro pneumonia, trembles, rinderpest and murrain, an unmeaning term applied to various cattle ails. Yet, garget, which does not belong to the group of epizootics proper, or contagious diseases like rinderpest, and is not an infectious one—in the long run, entails more loss than the epizootic and enzootic diseases. It is to be found far and wide, killing slowly and surely without regard to latitude, breeds, soil, conditions of weather, or systems of feeding.

This disease, garget, is one peculiar to the udder of cows, assuming an inflammatory form about the time of bringing forth their young. Occasionally, sows and ewes are attacked by the same malady. Heretofore, it has been inferred, that the conditions which preceded or induced an attack of garget, were a want of suitable care and keeping. That an insufficiency of food and shelter, either in the quanity or quality, or in both, may be predisposing causes is fairly presumable, yet recent observation develops, that cows in the "higher walks of life" as well as those in low life, are subject to it, and are afflicted with it.

As it becomes more prevalent and malignant, it is more apparent that not either of the conditions, good keeping or bad, give freedom from it, for the pampered and the neglected alike are subject to it. With young cows and coming-in heifers, the period of attack is quite as often before parturition as after that event.

There are several types of garget—quite as many as there are of lung diseases. In its mildest form—hardly perceivable to an impracticed eye—it is but a slight inflammation in its worst stage, a putrid, incurable ulceration. It is doubtful, if when the *fangs* of this disease fix their hold, whether anything short of death can disengage them. By proper treatment it may be kept in a subdued or latent form, but a complete recovery cannot occur.

Garget, defined by the books to be "an inflammation of the lymphatic glands," in its milder types "plays many parts" as in bloody milk, caked bag, swollen teats, and plugging of the teats. Usually some one of these forms is the first observable indication of the presence of this most to be dreaded disease, although its incipient stage may have for days preceded its outward appearance. The most frequent sign of an attack of garget is a coagulating of the milk in the bag, in other words, caked bag. Sometimes it shows its presence in one or more of the teats which become enlarged, hot or tender. All at once a gentle cow kicks at milking, simply because the operation is painful. This is the time, before the animal system is inoculated with the virus, to assault and fight the disease, for at this stage its hold is so insecure, that it may be forced to yield and vacate. The prescriptions to "cure" the garget are many, as salt-peter, poke-root (garget root), turkey oil, water hot or cold, hen's greese, bacon fat, molasses, belladonna, mercurial ointment, iodine &c., from most of which "Good Lord deliver us."

For bloody milk, a simple and ready-to-hand remedy, is salt-peter, a teasponful twice a day for three alternate days. Salt-peter should not be administered as a cow nears her time of calving, as it is laxative and weakening.

For caked bag, an external application of any self animal oil, like lard, is excellent, great stress is laid on turtle oil, skunk's grease, and the like, under the impression that such have some remarkable propenalties—they have the same soft qualities of lard—and nothing more. For swollen bag, or teats, red and hot, which is inflammation increased in degree, better success has attended the use of hot water, than any other application.

The swollen parts should be thoroughly bathed two or three times a day, with hot water, and well rubbed with a dry cloth, which, if well done, will extinguish the *inflammatory* fire. Where there is much inflammation, there is more or less fever; to subdue which, give a dose of this mixture, salts 1 lb, ginger ½ oz, molasses 1 gill, nitrate of potash ½oz. In mild cases, a cup full of carraway seed, steeped in a quart of water, will effect a cure. In all cases, if the patient is in milk, special pains must be taken to draw it, however painful it may be to the cow, or unpleasant, or difficult for the milker.

The more frequent causes of this disease, are *a failure to milk clean*, hasty drying up, milking too nearly up to parturition, and stimulating food, and various other causes, such as exposure to cold and wet, inattention in calving-time, suffering an animal to become too fat after drying off, may provoke the disease, but the few, first named, end in the most obstinate cases of garget. S. WASSON.

For the Maine Farmer.

The Lessons of the Fairs.

A leader in the FARMER of Nov. 2d on the above subject, called upon the officers of agricultural societies and all others interested in the success and prosperity of agricultural exhibitions, to follow up the subject with such thoughts, hints, or suggestions as they have arrived at from their experience in the management of the same. The desire on the part of the editor to have these matters discussed, was a laudable one, and no doubt was prompted by a desire for the highest success and greatest prosperity of these organizations. I have carefully scanned the columns of the FARMER since the publication of that editorial, anxiously expecting a response from some of its many readers; but as yet, not one word has it elicited. Not willing to have the subject dropped with its inception, I reluctantly take it up, still wishing it might be freely discussed.

I have had some experience in the management of cattle-shows; have ever felt a deep interest in the State, county, club and town exhibitions; have studied them as best I was able, and have watched results with no little attention. Yet I do not have confidence enough in the conclusions to which I have arrived, to lay them down as infallible rules for others to follow; nor am I fully decided in my own mind what course is best to follow in all cases.

The suggestion that whatever lessons were learned from the experiences of last autumn should be noted down at the time, for a guide to future action, was a good one. Officers are too apt to give the matter no thought, only during the days in which they are engaged in it. As soon as the days are passed, all thought in reference to the matter is dropped till another autumn precipitates its duties again upon them, when they are again hastily performed. The dear-bought experiences fruit which they should profit, lose their magnitude, and again mistakes and mismanagement are repeated.

Again, the *prime object* of such exhibitions is too often lost sight of, and a day of recreation, pleasure and amusement substituted for the whole thing. That the pleasure and amusement are desirable, especially to the farmer and his family, I fully realize. Still progress and improvement should not be lost sight of in our attempt to amuse. Indeed, I believe that all can be so combined in the same exhibition, that while the effort will be to show where progress can be made and to lead on to improvement, it will be a season of pleasure and a day of amusement to all who participate therein. Let us then labor for the cause as well as strive to amuse. The managers should aim to do good—and the highest good does not always come from simply a day of amusement. The incorporated societies receive aid from the State on the supposition that the cause of Agriculture is promoted thereby, and progress and improvement incited.

The most difficult thing to manage in all the exhibitions, whether State, county, or town, is the securing of competent judges to make the awards. Careless, incompetent, and sometimes dishonest judges, make unjust awards. This operates against the success and prosperity of the society, and thereby cripples its useful[ness]. People lose confidence, and the society loses patronage. The State Society—on whose awards so much is at stake—would be justified in making great efforts to secure the best of men for the several positions. Much depends on the chairman of each committee. As a rule, if he is competent, all will be right, or can be made right. Officers, then, who have the appointing power, should *know* that every chairman is competent to fill the place. With the State Society, at least, some money had better be expended in this direction, rather than have an unknown person serve as chairman. It should be known before the time of the exhibition that each of the appointed chairmen will be present and serve. It will, of course, be some trouble to the officers to ascertain this; but it can be done, and the advantages will far outweigh the trouble. In our county society, at least, this practice was adhered to for several years, with the best results. Adhering also to the practice of appointing no one on a committee unless a number of the appointing board can vouch for his competency, and also appointing no one unless you are quite sure he will be present at the show—has resulted in furnishing to the society with which I am connected a very competent board of judges. There is now but very little well-grounded complaints over the awards. The allusion in the editorial before referred to, of English societies keeping a list of the names of competent men for judges, is only a systematic carrying out of this idea, and might be adopted by our State Society, if by no other.

Another question of importance is whether the large number of club and town shows now held, tend to best promote the cause for which cattle shows should be held. A discussion of this question here may have no influence, still we cannot pass it by without notice. That these local shows exert a good influence in their several localities, there is no question; but a local show is limited in its influence. One of the great advantages of a county show is to bring together the best stock, the best products and the best farmers in its limits—that others who are aiming to breed such stock, grow such crops, and—because the best farmers themselves may go there and learn—may gain enthusiasm and be encouraged in their endeavors. Now, since a local show is narrow in its limits, the field from which to learn is narrower. In fact, there is nothing there but which you knew was there before. Therefore, if the local show keeps you away from the larger county shows then you lose the more valuable influence of the county show. People must go out of their own neighborhood at times to have their ideas and understanding enlarged, or they are apt to fall into the erroneous idea that what is found at home cannot be elsewhere equalled. How frequently do we hear the expression from those who seldom if ever attend any but the local shows—and no doubt their opinion is honestly entertained—that their town fair excelled the county fair altogether. Last fall an enthusiastic reporter of a club show made the statement, in a leading paper of the State, that competent judges pronounced the show of their club superior to the county fair, and also the State Fair. Their show was an honor to their clubs, I know, but as long as such egotism is encouraged and entertained the direct influence of the larger exhibitions is in a great measure lost. It is true, the effect of these local shows should be to increase the enthusiasm in such matters and thereby encourage participation in all agricultural exhibitions. But this is not the case. Z. A. G.

For the Maine Farmer.

Raising Young Stock---Query.

I wish to enquire through the columns of your valuable paper how to raise stock at a profit. I have been trying for a number of years and it don't pay. I winter them on second and third quality of hay and feed them all they will eat, yet they are thinner in flesh in the spring than they are in the fall. I would like to hear from some of our experienced stock raisers a few plain simple rules for raising good cattle. If fed grain how much per day and what kind is best to form flesh and bone? By giving a little light on the above you will confer a favor on a LOVER OF GOOD STOCK.

For the Maine Farmer.

What Is the Matter?

For a number of months past we have had from many pens, delineations of the difficulties and disadvantages of the farmers of Maine, with the anxious inquiry, "What shall we do?" and "What shall we do to be saved?" I am not inclined to treat these difficulties as altogether immaginary, or these inquiries as inappropriate; and yet I cannot resist the impression that much of this alarm is unfounded, and the difficulties overestimated. To be sure, the prices of products are not so high as they were a few years ago, while the wages of labor have not correspondingly fallen. The case is then, that we cannot make quite so large profits as we could a few years ago. But let us compare prices with what they were before the war. I have lately sold a pair of oxen for $160, which would have been high at $85 for the period from twelve to twenty years ago. My cows I can sell at from $20 to $50; for the period mentioned, $12 to $20 was a good price. Butter is double in value; eggs and poultry more than that. The same of potatoes, beans and many other products. Wool and pork are just now exceptional; but one will balance the other. Now this is a pretty good showing—what is the matter? The labor required to produce these articles is high—a little higher in proportion to the past perhaps than the articles enumerated. The rise of labor induced by the war has been kept up by the rebound and great extension of business in other departments. Even this is not to be regretted. The activity of business creates the demand for and contributes to keep up the price of our products. And the increased wages paid to the laborer enables him to become, to an increased extent, a consumer. The amount we are obliged to pay for hired labor does not on the whole constitute the majority of the means whereby our crops are produced. Far exceeding this, we have the natural capacity of the farm, the saving by the use of machinery, and the amount that may be done by the farmer himself or by his family. Hence, though he may lose a little by the enhanced price of labor, he may gain more by means of these other elements of production, in consequence of the enhanced price of products. If this is so, are not the times better than formerly? and if not, why not?

There is evidently something more than used to be the case operating as a drawback on the farmer's prosperity—a something that abstracts the money from the farmer's keeping, leaving him as lean as in former times, notwithstanding he has received far more for his crops. Taxation has heretofore operated in this direction to a great extent. Though there still remains enough of this to be much felt, this is not quite enough to account for the whole difficulty. The exactions of fashion and the customs of society constitute a greater tax than those laid by our municipalities. During the war much money was made, and since, has been unusually plenty. This has induced habits of living and social customs incompatible with the real income of the people. The rural population has seen others, in government employ, or in speculation, or in various easy pursuits, apparently getting rich, or living at their ease; and there has been a desire to enjoy their privileges and copy their habits. Even the laudable desire of the farming community to rise in the social scale has been misdirected into aping the fashions and follies of those around them. Men do not labor so hard as formerly, and do not manage so carefully. There is an avoidance of the disagreeables of our business and a shirking of much that should be done. Said a business man to me the other day, "Years ago, when I went around the country buying cattle, I would find the farmers and their boys out with sturdy four-ox teams, ploughing, clearing, or building stone wall. Now I don't see much of this. Look arround the village here, and you will see plenty of young men dressed up in clean clothes, loitering around the stores." Here is the difficulty—production is lessened, and the profit of what is produced is expended in keeping up with the times. Here is some old rhyme that may serve as a looking-glass:

"Man, to the plow; boy, to the mow;
Wife, to the cow; girl, to the sow;
Your accounts will be netted.

Man, 'Tally, ho!' girl, piano;
Wife, silk and satin; boy, Greek and Latin—
And you'll be gazetted."

Here is the plain, homely truth, and it had better be regarded. But would you have us make slaves of ourselves and families always? Are you not aware that it is the lack of leisure, of education and refinement that is sending our sons away from the farm, and our daughters into other connections? I am aware of all this, and yet I would never allow relaxation in needed diligence and economy, under the false notion that it will conduce to the future respectability or comfort of children or of the farming community. Another thing I would not do. I would not suffer the demands of society to render me so poor that I could not live in comfort, and then wonder what is the matter—lay the blame to the country, or to the markets, and sigh for the far off somewhere, where wants are supplied without effort, and perplexities never come. Remember this, that the products competing with ours in the markets are produced by disregarding the luxuries and refinements of life; to a great extent, by those who have wearied of the exactions of refined society, and have gone into those new countries, moved into their sad cabin and worked with a will. And let us know that, if those countries are perfectly equal as to opportunity, we cannot hold our own with them if we carry the burdens of our present customs.

It may be inferred from the above that it is my opinion that the most important measure for us is to stop grumbling and go to work. More I should like to say, but cannot in my present limits. Yet, one phase of our present dreadful condition I cannot forbear naming, and that is, the distresses of that class of our citizens represented by my very good friend—the valued friend of my early boyhood—the fortunate possessor of a princely intervale farm on the banks of the Kennebeck, in the town of Norridgewock.

"Say, ye oppressed by some fanta-tic woes.
Some jarring nerve that baffles your repose,
Who with mock patience dire complaints endure,
Which real pain and that alone can cure—
How would ye bear in real pain to lie
Despised, neglected, left alone to die?
How would ye bear to draw your latest breath
Where all that's wretched paves the way for death?"

Grass Dale, Salem. ALBERT PEASE.

For the Maine Farmer.

"The Patrons of Husbandry."

In your paper of Dec. 21st, you alluded to a call from Mr. Geo. Stevens, of Wisconsin, whose visit to Maine is for the purpose of organizing secret societies, *designed* to promote and protect the interests of agriculture. Mr. Stevens, I doubt not, is an honest man, and believes he is doing a good work, but never, during his lifetime, can he advance the social condition or pecuniary interest of the farmers in Maine, by stating any trap-door organizations, even if he persuade them to take the *fourth* degree. I regret that there are men in the go-ahead wide-awake western states, so narrow in their veiws, as to imagine they can defend themselves from speculators, by any such claptrap, and earnestly hope the farmers of our state are too intelligent and independant to pay $15 for anything of the kind. If one is ready to acknowledge he has not the capacity to manage his own affairs, it is absurd to pay $15 for the purpose of advertising it to the world.

It is but a few years since almost every town in New England, had its "Union Store." The capital that started these stores was furnished by farmers living in the vicinity where they were located, and the motive they had in thus investing their surplus funds, was self-protection. But where are their "Protective Union Stores" to-day, and where are the farmers who were ever concerned with one that wants to put money into another. The truth is, they did not pay, simply because the men who managed them did not understand their business, and so the Union Store operations went into a decline and died suddenly.

To all engaged in agriculture, my advise is this: manage your transactions yourselves, until you feel that you need another counsel, as to whether it is better to sell or hoard awhile longer, then go to the man in your town, or neighborhood, who had the reputation of being "lucky" whose blow at the nail always hits it on the head, and find out, if you can, his intentions, then do likewise, instead of joining the "Patrons of Husbandry." You will, as a result; save yourself disappointment, and have the $15.00 to use for some better purpose. The surest and wisest way to keep clear of swindlers, is with the new year, to invest the amount required for membership in Mr. Stevens' order, in good reliable papers, both news and agricultural.

Intelligence is a better shield against rogues, and a better lever to success, than all the secret societies ever invented, since Adam. Trade is something that cannot be stopped by a breath or regulated by the opinions of a few individuals collected together in some dark attic; supply and demand take it where it belongs, and control it after it gets there. It is just as easy for the farmer who has butter, eggs or beef to sell to know this value, as the man who buys, if he will only take the same means to find it out. When I hear a man complaining that he sold his potatoes, his pork or his meal, too cheap, or for less than their market value, I conclude that he does not read as much as he ought or as much as he might.

Every person in our state, who owns a farm and does not read the market reports, or is not a subscriber to any paper, ought to attach himself to some organization where he can show his ignorance. But the man who reads and knows something of the world, in short, keeps posted, requires no such staff to lean upon, as the "Patrons of Husbandry." FARLEY.

For the Maine Farmer.

Notes on the Road.

New Use for the Town Pound.

In passing one of these legal institutions in a neighboring town one day last fall I saw within its enclosure a fine crop of turnips growing, which I really thought spoke volumes in favor of the good morals of the farmers in said town. If all the office holders *salaries* could be paid in the same way that that Pound Keeper's is paid what a prosperous people we should be.

They Didn't Say a Word.

I also noticed a couple of farmers who were on their way to attend to some important business that required their immediate attention, stop on their way some fifteen or twenty minutes in trying to find and kill a poor harmless snake that they had but a minute before seen cross their track and escape in the grass. I told them that I had made up my mind years ago that every snake that was killed by the farmer was money out of the pocket of the snake killer, for I firmly believed when the snake was looked upon in their true light in relation to the farmer their conclusion would be that the farmer had but few better friends than the despised snake, and if they would give me a single good reason why they should take so much pains to kill a poor harmless snake I should be pleased to hear it, and they said not a word. E. G. B.

For the Maine Farmer.

Agricultural Intelligence.

The Weather during December.

A meteorological record of the weather, &c., for the month of December, 1872:

	Sunrise.	1 P. M.	Sunset.	Mean.
Mean of month,	9½	21	17	16
Maximum,	34	35	36	49 Dec. 15.
Minimum,	22	4	5	29 Dec. 25.

Three days north and northeast wind during the month; three days east and southeast; two days south and southwest; twenty-three days west and northwest,—prevailing wind northwest. Mean warmest day, 15th, 35 deg.; mean coldest 25th, 9 deg. below zero. Mean of Dec. for eighteen years, 21 deg.; so the past Dec. was 5 deg. colder than the average. Mean of Dec. 1871, 20¼ degrees,—1872, 16 deg. or 4¼ degrees colder than last year. Mean temperature of 18 years past 43 degrees. Mean of 1871, 43¼ degrees—1872, 43 degrees, or just the average for eighteen years. Snow fall for the month 30 inches.

Month much colder than the average, indeed but two colder Decembers in 18 years, to wit: 1858, 15½ degrees, and 1859, 14½ deg. First part of the month rather mild; last half intensely cold with frequent snow-storms—colder than for some years. Sleighing the whole month. Snow at the present time, 2½ feet deep on a level. J. F. BLAKE.

Winterport, Jan. 2d, 1873.

Answer to Henry Poor---West or East!

We think Mr. Poor is laboring under a great mistake, when he tells us boys to stick to Maine to raise our bread, and plough an extra acre for wheat next year and raise wheat enough for five barrels of flour. We might possibly do it if we had all the ashes and other fertilizers that we would like to have to apply to said acre; but we have not the means to make the land thus productive. Supposing we had, I would ask Mr. Poor what should we gain in expending all the crop would be worth on that one acre? In the West we have only to plow the land and put in the seed to any amount; here we are governed and restricted by our fertilizing heap. Mr. Poor tells us wheat on western farms is 50 to 60 cents per bushel. I can tell him of farms in the West on which the wheat is worth $1.65, five and six hundred bushels being the yearly product, the cost of production, I think, would not be much more than to raise twenty or thirty bushels on our old worn out farms. Now Mr. Poor, how can you consistently advise us to stay here in Maine? GOING WEST.

Note from Western Kennebec.

The mercury is away down in the thirties, and all business except breaking roads is well night suspended. A worse winter for business I never saw; but fuel of all kinds is plenty, and those who have plenty of good apples and dry wood, as every one ought to have, have no reason to complain. T.

December 29th.

A Manure Factory.

I have four shoats in my barn cellar, living well on raw sugar beets, except one quart of corn put down with the manure every morning. The way they "go for it" is perfectly lovely. The manure is rooted, re-rooted, and rooted again till it is worked up as fine as old manure. The stock is bedded every night. T.

An Incident of Early Agricultural History.

From 1812 to 1816 there lived in No. 6 Plantation (now a part of Phillips) a Mr. Roberts who was a farmer, also a turner of wooden ware, and many of the settlers were proud of a set of dishes such as bowls, plates, cups and saucers. I well remember of eating my supper out of a bowl turned from a gray maple knurl in 1815. This same Mr. Roberts went on to the south side of High hill or as some call it a mountain, and felled two acres of trees in the spring of 1816, set fire to it and burned the brush well off, and as was the custom in those days planted corn, beans and pumpkins. During the summer he sold the possession to my father James Dill and left for Ohio. There was a good crop raised of corn, beans and pumpkins, which was one of Heaven's great blessings, it being one of the cold seasons. But very little corn was raised in this then District of Maine, that year.

Phillips. S. DILL.

A Lincoln County Porker.

Roscoe G. Winslow of Nobleboro' killed a hog Monday, Dec. 30th, twenty months old. Its weight was eight hundred and eleven pounds. We want to know if he has beat the State. LYMAN H. WINSLOW.

Nobleboro'.

Lima Beans in Maine.

Your correspondent from Fayette enquires about Lima Beans. I think your reply that they cannot be grown in Maine, incorrect. I have grown them for ten years. In 1870 they matured early, and were larger and fuller than my seed, which came from New York. The past season I did not get them planted until late, and the very wet and cold season was against them. Yet many of them ripened; a sample of which I send you,—which you can forward to your correspondents. [We will do so if he will again favor us with his address, and send stamps for postage.—ED.]

I think our Maine people do not know how delicious a shell bean is; else they would grow them in their gardens. They are very full meated, produce wonderfully, and grow in a mammoth pod; plant in light gravel loom, well enriched, on a southerly slope. Some of the pods do not fully ripen, they are easily sheltered and dried. In New York and Philadelphia, one is not satisfied with a dinner unless Lima beans are included. Let Fayette try a few.

Winterport, Dec. 21. F. ATWOOD.

A Good Bunch of Pork.

Edward F. Lyon, North Manchester, killed a hog eighteen months old, which weighed, when dressed, eight hundred and two pounds.

Manchester, Dec. 16.

Note from Piscataquis County.

Mercury this morning at sunrise—24. Snow three feet deep on a level, and roads badly blocked up,—not known so early in the season since my remembrance. L. C.

South Sebec, Dec. 29th.

West Penobscot---Officers for 1873.

At the annual meeting of the West Penobscot Agricultural Society held in the hall on the Society's grounds, in Exeter, January 1st, 1873, the following officers were chosen for the ensuing year:

President—George S. Hill, Exeter. Vice Presidents—S. Merriam, Elijah Crane, Garland; E. A. Chandler, Exeter. Secretary and Treasurer—T. P. Batchelder, Kenduskeag. Trustees—Elijah Crane, Garland; Eben E. Brown, Exeter; Crosby Clements, Kenduskeag. Librarian—David Barker, Exeter.

Oxford County Steers.

L. L. Gardiner of this place recently sold six two years old steers for the sum of five hundred and thirty-five dollars; and has another pair of twins same age, six feet and seven inches, which look exactly alike. He raised them all from calves. LOVER OF GOOD STOCK.

Oxford Down Sheep---Query.

I wish to enquire through the columns of your paper, who is breeding the full blood Oxford down sheep? I have been keeping South Downs and Leicester; and would like to correspond with some one concerning the wool and mutton qualities of the above breed.

West Bethel. A. O. PAINE.

Be More Explicit.

I saw an article in a late FARMER stating that "Messrs. Coffin Bros. lately sold a colt for a price highly remunerative." Now although this seems to be plain English, yet we here in eastern Kennebec are unable to fix upon either the age or the price received. Will not the writer of said article please give us some standard by which we may understand what such statements mean? O. O. CROSBY.

Albion.

Another Kennebec Wheat Crop.

Mr. R. Crosby of Albion sowed May 1st three bushels of Lost Nation wheat on two acres of land, and harvested forty bushels. This piece was considerably injured by the midge. On May 13th he sowed four and one-half bushels on three acres of land and harvested one hundred bushels. C.

Albion, Dec. 30th.

Essex St., (Bangor) Farmers' Club.

At the fourth annual meeting of the Essex St. Farmers' Club, held Nov. 15th, 1872, the following named officers were elected for the ensuing year: Rufus Prince, President; Geo. Sawyer, Vice President; A. J. Brown, Treasurer and Collector; Ed

Maine Farmer.

Augusta, January 11, 1873.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.

$2.00 in advance, or $2.50 if not paid within Three Months of the date of Subscription.

☞All payments made by subscribers will be credited on the yellow slips attached to their papers. The printed date in connection with the subscriber's name will show the time to which he has paid, and will constitute, in all cases a valid receipt for moneys remitted by him.

☞A subscriber desiring to change the post office direction of his paper must communicate to us the *name of the office to which it has been previously sent*, otherwise we shall be unable to comply with his request.

Collectors' Notices.

Mr. V. DARLING will visit Cumberland County in January.

Mr. C. S. AYER is now canvassing the county of Lincoln.

Mr. S. N. TABER is now canvassing the county of Kennebec.

Mr. A. D. FOSTER of Lakeville, Cornwallis, is now engaged in canvassing and collecting in Nova Scotia, as agent for the MAINE FARMER.

☞ To Our Patrons.

With the commencement of a New Volume of the MAINE FARMER, we would urge upon those of our subscribers who are in arrears for the paper, the duty of prompt and immediate payment. The publishers are in great need of money to meet the large current expenses of publication, and those who are owing us will do us a great favor, without waiting to be called on by our agents, by mailing the amount due at once to this office.

Subscribers residing out of the State, who cannot be reached by us in person or by agents, are especially requested to heed and respond to our call for money.

We renew the liberal offer made to our subscribers last year, of which we hope all concerned will take advantage, viz:

All persons in arrears who will send us the amount now due, at the rate of $2 per year and two dollars in addition, shall receive credit for all past indebtedness, and for a year's subscription in advance. THIS OFFER TO STAND OPEN UNTIL THE 15th OF JANUARY, 1873. All payments made at this office, or by mail, or to our authorized agents previous to that date, will be credited in accordance with the terms above stated.

Compulsory Attendance.

We are gratified that the Legislature is early giving its attention to the subject of education, and we trust that before the session closes, our common school system will be carefully considered and such changes made as shall render it more effective and better adapted to the present wants of the State.

While the State has been making rapid progress in almost everything else, and while the facilities for obtaining an academic or collegiate education have been greatly multiplied, the interest in our common schools is no greater now than it was twenty years ago. There may be exceptional cases, especially in the cities and larger towns, but we insist that this statement is true with regard to a large majority of the schools in the State. We have improved methods of teaching, improved text books, and in most places better school houses and more or less school apparatus, and yet in the country towns our schools are growing smaller year by year. It is obvious that all improved conditions of teaching are of little value, if the schools are not attended.

Twenty years ago, notwithstanding the primitive condition of many of our schoolhouses and the monotonous and immethodical system of instruction, there was attraction in the school sufficient to bring out the scholars, male and female, from near and far, even in the worst storms of winter; rarely would a scholar be detained at home on account of cold or blockading snows.

Local attractions have very much multiplied within a few years, and since our State has been traversed by railways, almost annihilating the distance between city and country, there has been more to distract the attention of our scholars from their studies and a very slight cause furnishes a pretext for remaining away from school. A few attend school constantly, and make rapid progress, but they are only those who love study better than play, and these constitute but a very small proportion of our scholars. To a much larger number, it must be admitted that school days are irksome and tedious, and when such are left to choose for themselves, they leave the monotonous round of the school-room for places more congenial to their tastes; and the golden opportunity for obtaining an education is forever lost. It is rare, even when compelled to attend school that one of this class makes a brilliant scholar, though it sometimes happens, but there are very few of them who are not capable of obtaining an education sufficient to fit them for the practical duties of life.

It is a crime against a government like ours, whose very existence depends upon the education of the masses, to neglect any means by which the efficiency of our common schools can be promoted. This truth has been urged upon the people from the pulpit, through the public press and by our best educators again and again, but with no satisfactory results. The apathy and indifference, if not actual hostility to any change in our common school system, which exists at the present time, is a matter which every friend of popular government must view with deep concern. In our judgment it is quite time that some more effective means should be adopted to extend the benefits of the common school to all classes, than have heretofore been tried. There may be those who would regard the passage of a law which compelled parents to send their children to school, as arbitrary and an infringement upon the bill of rights, but we believe such a statute would not only be proper and effective, but would clearly be within the limits of constitutional law.

Our system of popular education is clearly recognized by the organic law of the State, while it devolves upon the legislature to give force and efficiency to the constitutional requirement by appropriate legislation. Accordingly we are taxed for the erection of school houses and for the support of schools, but without the right to provide for compulsory attendance all our efforts may be neutralized and the whole object of these great expenditures may be defeated, by the neglect or refusal of parents and guardians to send their children to school.

A bill has already been introduced into the Legislature providing for compulsory attendance, and we trust it may receive that careful and deliberate consideration which its importance demands. This bill, which may require some modifications or amendments, provides for the compulsory attendance of all children at school between the ages of eight and fourteen years for a period of at least twelve weeks in a year, six weeks of which to be consecutive, unless the bodily or mental condition of a child prevents. In case the law is not complied with it fixes a penalty not exceeding five dollars for each offence. School officers are to enforce the law.

☞ The Maine Central Railroad Company have adopted a rule that members of the Legislature and State Government who are obliged to pass over their road, shall be passed at half fare. The reduction is made strictly on business principles, and leaves no appearance of special favor. The act is generous as it is impartial, and will tend to give the public still greater confidence in the management of this important road.

☞In copying an item with reference to the post-office at Cambridge, we spoke of Mrs. Ripley as the person who acted as Assistant. It should have read Mrs. Bailey.

The Value of Science.

Our readers have heard of the great Arizona diamond swindle; how a shrewd but unprincipled man first conceived the idea and then associated with him two other men as wicked as himself, and then sent to England and other European countries and purchased a large invoice of precious stones, diamonds, sapphires, rubies, &c., in the rough, and selecting a field in an uninhabited and unknown district in the mountain regions of Arizona, they salted the earth in several places with their imported diamonds and then managed to have some of them found by persons who were ignorant of their origin and supposed they were the natural productions of the soil. The report quickly spread, producing great excitement and a stock company, for the purchase of the land was speedily organized with a capital stock of $10,000,000.

Gen. McClellan was an officer of this company which included among its members, some of the wealthiest and shrewdest men of New York. The organization was perfected and the stock was already in the market, while eighteen more companies with a combined capital of $18,000,000 were on the point of being formed, everything was going on swimmingly, and so carefully had the reports of the almost fabulous value of these diamond fields, been worked up, that there is no doubt the rush for this stock would have been tremendous, when the bubble was pricked and the scheme exposed by the application of a little science.

Mr. Clarence King, who is a goverament geologist, with two trained assistants, while the waves of excitement were running mountains high and stories were told of these new found treasure fields which fairly eclipsed the adventures of "Sinbad the Sailor"—quietly set themselves at work to discover the whereabouts of this mysterious locality, and apply the simple tests of science to rumors which were setting the world ablaze with excitement. By recent surveys, they had gained an intimate knowledge of the country, and by their knowledge of geology and mineralogy in general, they would be able to fix upon any locality where precious stones of the kinds named would be produced. Before long they came to a trail which they followed and soon found a place where the surface of the earth had been disturbed and on further investigation, they found diamonds, sapphires and rubies systematically planted in the ground and placed in the cavities of the rocks.

Mr. King and his associates at once perceived that this was not a diamond-producing locality, every principle of mineralogical science indicating the contrary—and returned to San Francisco with such clear proofs of fraud, that the whole scheme collapsed in a moment.

This quiet investigation on the part of Mr. King and his associates saved the country millions of dollars, besides the scandal which the whole country must have borne, when the frauds became known, which must have been the case sooner or later.

This *expose* will tend to give many people a higher regard for the physical sciences, than they have before had, especially for the science of geology, concerning the value of which, there has been great skepticism. It also teaches us that money expended by government for scientific surveys, explorations, &c., when properly applied, is of real, practical benefit.

☞ On Tuesday of last week, Mr. Merrill Lee of this city, died at his residence on Bridge street. He had been confined to his house for three weeks with the erysipelas of the head. His death was sudden to his family and the community. Mr. Lee removed to this city from Vassalboro' about a year ago. He had been for several years a large dealer in hay, produce, &c., and was well known in portions of this State and Mass., as an enterprising, intelligent business man, whose promptness and integrity commanded the confidence of all by whom he was known. Such men can ill be spared; and his family, in the loss of an affectionate husband and father, have the sympathy of the community.

☞ Mr. Augustus J. Knight of Rumford, who has been placed at the head of the House Committee on Agriculture, is one of the most successful farmers of Oxford County. He owns and cultivates a fine farm composed largely of rich bottom lands on the Androscoggin river, and makes a specialty of dairying, but engages intelligently in general farming operations. It is a flattering compliment to Mr. Knight to be appointed to the chairmanship of this Committee, as this is his first legislative term, but we feel certain that he will creditably acquit himself of its important duties.

☞ The annual meeting of the Maine Editors and Publishers Association will be held in this city on Thursday and Friday the 16th and 17th inst. The meeting will be principally devoted to business, though there will be Literary Exercises and Social Festivities. Joseph Griffin, Esq., of Brunswick, will read an interesting paper on the history of the craft in Maine. Cards for free passes over the rail-roads will be furnished to members on application to M. N. Rich, Portland. Reduced rates will also be procured at the hotels.

☞ We have received the first number of the "*Enquirer*" which takes the place of the Riverside *Echo*. The new paper is larger than the *Echo* and its columns present an interesting variety of local and general news. Temperance will be made a specialty in the *Enquirer* and its general management will be the same as the *Echo*. Our former acquaintance, Rev. B. P. Snow, is the able editor.

☞ We have received a marked copy of the Omaha *Tribune*, containing a statement signed by leading masons of Omaha, in which the fraternity throughout the United States are cautioned against an enterprise, which started in that territory, purporting to be a project for raising funds to erect a masonic temple at Omaha. The whole thing is pronounced a fraud.

☞ Rev. Almon Gage of New York has been engaged to supply the pulpit of the Winthrop street Universalist church until the 1st of May next. Mr. Gage is a vigorous thinker and writer and an effective and interesting speaker. We have no doubt that his labors will be of great benefit to the parish of which he has taken the temporary charge.

☞ THE CARBOLIC PREVENTIVE packet, manufactured and sold by Charles K. Partridge, Druggist of this city, is highly recommended as a safeguard against contagious diseases, especially small pox. The packet is in convenient form for carrying or wearing about the person, costs only 20 cents and no one should neglect procuring it seasonably, as one of the necessary precautions against a loathsome disease now ravaging the country.

☞ The Treasurer of St. Marks Home gratefully acknowledges in behalf of the Home, items accidentally omitted in the last report. Thirty cords of wood, cut and put in, from Mr. A. Lambard; one ton of coal from Parrott, Bradbury & Co.; the Daily Kennebec Journal, the Maine Standard, and the Maine Farmer, from the publishers.

☞ The Portland *Press* understands that the statement which was very generally copied by the Maine papers, to the effect that Charles E. Ryerson had been found guilty of theft is an error. The *Press* says that Mr. Ryerson was the victim of a thief but not the thief. We are pleased at being able to make this correction.

☞ A correspondent (G. D. G.) informs us that Wm. Foye, a colored preacher of this city, in one year and a half, made eleven quilts, one containing 3,454 squares and another with 650 squares, no two being alike; and besides this, he preaches six sermons a week.

☞ Dr. G. T. Bingay of Granville Ferry, N. S., and G. V. Rand of Wolfville, N. S., are no longer authorized agents for the MAINE FARMER.

CITY GOSSIP. We understand that the reunion of the old employees of the P. & K. R. R. was a very pleasant affair, and will probably become a yearly festival.—Miss Anna E. Dickinson is to lecture at Granite Hall on the 17th inst. Subject, "What to Hinder?—W. M. Thayer, the popular landlord of the Mansion House, proposes to sell out and go South on account of poor health.—About six hundred persons had a free vaccination Saturday and Monday. Next Saturday those who have not availed themselves of this privilege will have another opportunity of doing so. We understand that the board of surgeons will visit the factories and vaccinate such of the operatives as may desire their service. They are provided with pure vaccine from a healthy cow.—Ninety-four persons have died in this city during the past year, about equally divided between the two sexes. There were eighty-eight deaths in 1871 and one hundred and fourteen in 1870. —Three persons were admitted to the Insane Hospital last week.—There have been several runaways caused by snow falling from buildings.—The weather for the past week has been in grateful contrast to that of the week before. Some of the days appeared quite springlike.—Seventeen intentions of marriage were recorded by the City Clerk during December.—There is to be a social dance at Granite Hall Thursday evening, the proceeds to be appropriated to the relief of Mrs. Libby, whose destitute condition we mentioned a short time since. The proprietors generously give the free use of the Hall on that occasion.—The Chaplain at the National Military Asylum has presented the Public Library with six bound volumes of Harper's Magazine.—There are but six prisoners in the county jail. On the first of January 1872 there were twenty-eight.—The following officers of the Y. M. C. Association of this city for the ensuing year were chosen Monday evening: President, David Cargill; Vice President and Recording Secretary, E. E. Davis; Treasurer, S. S. Brooks; Corresponding Secretary, H. K. Choate; Finance Committee, E. S. Mero, Allen Church and Mr. Hodges.—Caswell, the defaulting Town Treasurer of Belgrade, has been brought from Massachusetts, on a requisition by the Governor, and lodged in the jail in this city.—Mr. Joseph Piper, the fancy goods dealer on Water street, has formed a copartnership with his son, Benj. A. Piper.—Masons will remember the Chapter meeting at Hallowell this (Thursday) afternoon and evening, and Commandery in this city to-morrow.—The noon prayer-meetings in Darby Hall are said to be well attended and interesting.

☞A brief note from Rev. Dr. Estes conveys the painful intelligence of the death of his father-in-law, our esteemed friend, Deacon Eli Foster, which occurred at his residence in Bethel, Monday night, after a brief illness of two weeks. Mr. Foster was one of the pioneers in the lower part of Bethel, as it is called, having occupied the farm whereon he died, nearly or quite fifty years. He belonged to a family of seven brothers, all of whom grew up to manhood, and was born in the town of Newry about the second year of the present century. When little more than twenty-one years of age he married Dorcas Bartlett of Bethel, who survives him, and settled on the farm before referred to, which was then in a state of nature. Being one of the first settlers, he had his choice in the selection of his farm, and in so doing he displayed that sagacity and correct judgment which characterized all the business transactions of his life. By hard labor supplemented by economy and good management, he subdued the wilderness and made for himself one of the most valuable farms in town. He was a man of superior intelligence, considering his opportunities, and was in full sympathy with every reformatory movement. He despised shams, and possessed great keenness of perception in detecting them. He was a valuable citizen, and will be greatly missed in the neighborhood, the church and town. His thrift and prosperity, which were only the results of industry and prudence, have sometimes made him the envy of those less successful, but even these have often been the recipients of his favors, and will now mourn his loss as that of a true friend. Although not having the advantages of early education, he appreciated its value and urged upon others the importance of securing it. The writer of this brief notice was for several years a member of Mr. Foster's family, and the intimate and confidential relations which have since existed between them, have given him opportunities of knowing the man as but few knew him. We have said that he will be greatly missed and mourned, but except by his family, his memory will be longest cherished by those whom he has aided by his counsel and means, to attain higher positions in life than were accorded to them by the circumstances of birth and early advantages.

☞The captain of the steamer Sacramento, wrecked on the Pacific coast a short time ago, speaks in very high terms of praise of the conduct of Col. Horace L. Pike of Augusta, formerly editor of the Liberal Republican, a passenger, who, with drawn revolver, prevented a rush to the boats in the first moments of excitement, threatening to shoot the first person who dare touch a single boat. Had it not been for the Colonel's coolness and resolution, the captain thinks the boats might have been overfilled and swamped and many lives lost. As it was, no life was lost and no injury to a person occurred. We are informed that while the Colonel was thus engaged, his state-room was robbed of all his clothing and other valuables.

☞A session of the Supreme Judicial Court commenced in Bangor Tuesday. The members of the bar had a meeting at which a vote was passed requesting Judge Cutting to adjourn the Court on account of small pox. The Court assented and adjourned without day. This action was regarded by many as unnecessary, and it is more than hinted that the bar proceedings may be accounted for in the fact that no cases were ready for trial. A despatch says that the whole number of cases under treatment are thirty-five, all of a mild type.

☞The Portland Press says that a bran new member of the Maine Legislature with a somewhat exaggerated notion of the powers and perquisites of his official position, *franked* a heap of documents to his admiring friends and constituents the other day. We are gratified to announce that the postal authorities promptly discountenanced this new attempt at an extension of the franking privilege

☞Dr Lincoln, member of the House from Dennysville says that during the sixteen years of his practice in that town, that in one locality, embraced within a circle of a diameter of half a mile, six pairs of twins have been born and two sets of triplets. These quite remarkable little episodes have occurred at nearly all the houses embraced within the limits mentioned.

☞The Portland correspondent of the Boston Advertiser, says there will be an attempt in the Legislature to carry out the wishes of Gen. Chamberlain, who is now Major General of our militia, in respect to regimental or battalion organizations. At present we have nothing but detached companies.

☞The Goat Island bill, now pending before Congress, will be likely to test the influence of the Pecific Railroad in that body. It is opposed by the Republican Governor and most of the respectable citizens of California, who are not pecuniarily interested in the Pacific Railroad.

☞ On Saturday evening five prisoners escaped from Ward's Island, New York harbor, in a boat, but when near the shore the boat was crushed by ice, and two of them, women, were drowned. The others were rescued and locked up.

☞The Press reports that the insurance rates are to be advanced 30 per cent.

COUNTY ITEMS. J. K. Osgood, the Gardiner temperance reformer, is doing good service in the cause in Boston and vicinity.—China voted on Friday to loan its credit to the Kennebec and Wiscasset Railroad Co., to the amount of $75,000, by a vote of 134 to 52.—Gardiner has another case of varioloid of Boston origin.—The Knickerbocker Company commenced putting in ice Monday at their lower houses. The ice is from twelve to fifteen inches thick and of fine quality. They are also scraping in front of their upper houses in Farmingdale, and will commence to run as soon as their field is made ready.—The Waterville *Mail* says that a petition for a division of that town, headed by A. P. Benjamin, chair man of the Board of selectmen of the West Village, is circulating there for signatures. Over two hundred and fifty names have been added.—A load of wood that appeared in Gardiner, Thursday, brought at the rate of $12 per cord, and five parties wanted it at that price.—Mr. John A. Rhodes—formerly a well known boot and shoe dealer in Waterville, who went from here to Ohio, twenty years ago or more—has finally taken up his abode in Colarado, having accompanied his son-in-law, who went there to establish himself in the stock raising business. He is located twelve miles above Pueblo, where he says he has a thousand sheep which his "Ohio boy" herds, going out with them in the morning and staying with them all day.—Mr. J. L. Cheesman has a crew scraping the river in front of his recent purchase, the Cedar Grove Company's houses, and will fill them as soon as practicable.—Among the recent patents issued is one to Geo. G. Percival, of Waterville, for process and apparatus for extracting essential oils.—H. W. Jewett, of Gardiner has loaded 361 cars with lumber during the year of 1872, and forwarded over the Maine Central.—Sturgis' crew have a good field scraped in front of their ice houses in Pittston and will commence to run about the first of next week, it is stated.—The new school house which has been building in Winthrop the last summer, is now complete in all its finishings and furnishings and the services of dedication will take place about the middle of this month. —The friends of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Clarke of Richmond, met with them on Friday evening last, to celebrate the twentieth anniversay of their wedding, bearing with them China ware in great abundance. Five full sets were among the presents, besides single pieces in innumerable quantities.—Messrs. Heath & Crosby of Waterville are lumbering extensively this winter. They have a tract of 2,000 acres of fine timber land in Burnham and employ 60 men and 16 horses in the woods. They are cutting masts and spars and ship timber which goes to Belfast, and other lumber which is manufactured at their mills in Benton.

THE CREDIT MOBILIER. The following was substantially the substance of Speaker Blaine's testimony before the Investigating Committee, the proceedings of which are now being made public:

"I wish to state, without reservation or qualification, that I never owned a share of stock in the Credit Mobilier in my life, either by gift, purchase, or any way whatever, nor did I receive directly or indirectly, a single cent of dividend in any manner or shape from the Credit Mobilier or from the Union Pacific Railroad Company. No person holds or ever did hold for me any stock in either corporation as agent or trustee, or any capacity whatever. I wish my testimony to be taken as exhaustive, and as intended to exclude every form or phase of ownership in the Credit Mobilier or the Pacific Railroad Company, both past and present. I desire further to state that some time in the spring of 1868, Oakes Ames asked me one day if I would like to purchase some stock in the Credit Mobilier. He said that it would prove a good investment and he could sell me ten shares of the stock at a rate somewhat above par. I think at $100 for the 10 shares. We had some conversation in regard to the matter and Mr. Ames told me very frankly that in regard to these shares there was a lawsuit either pending or threatened, though he said his right to sell the shares was perfect and undoubted. I concluded that I did not desire to purchase the stock and therefore declined Mr. Ames's offer. I beg to say, however, in justice, to Mr. Ames, but more especially in justice to myself, that it never occurred to me that he was trying to bribe me or in any way influence any vote or action as a representative.

A BASE SLANDER REFUTED. Last summer the New York *Tribune* published a scurrilous letter respecting Hon. John L. Stevens, of this State, now United States Minister to Uraguay, which was extensively copied. Mr. Stevens has written a letter to the *Tribune* which was published last week, showing the utter falsity and malicious character of the charges. He declares that he maintains the most extensive establishment of any representative of a foreign government at Montevideo; that the rumor of his connection with, or employment of Bailey, the defaulting New York revenue collector, is false; and instead of employing several clerks to transact the business because of his ignorance of Spanish, that he has acquired a knowledge of the language to which he has applied himself by which he has been able to translate all the official correspondence and otherwise do the business connected with the mission.

SUICIDE IN CARMEL. Last Friday morning Mr. Joseph Harvey of Carmel told his wife he was going out and should never return alive, asked her to forgive him if he had ever wronged her, and bidding her good bye left the house. Mrs. Harvey who was busy about the house, did not pay much attention to what he said, supposing he was going to visit his son who resided about three miles away, as he had frequently done before; but as he did not return as usual at night, she became alarmed, informed the neighbors, and search was at once instituted for him. It was discovered that he had not been at his son's place, and that the last seen of him was in the forenoon, about ten o'clock, when he purchased a piece of rope from Messrs. C. K. & E. C. Johnson, after which he went away in the direction of the Maine Central railroad station. The search was fruitless Friday night, and it was resumed on Saturday and resulted, about two o'clock in the afternoon, in the discovery of his corpse, hanging by the neck, from a beam in an old barn on the Knights place, near the railroad and about two miles east from the Carmel station. The body was frozen stiff, and it is conjectured that the act was committed soon after he purchased the rope.

SHOCKING OUTRAGE. A correspondent of the *Whig* at Milo writes that on New Year's eve three roughs of that town assaulted a young girl, about fifteen years of age, forced her to inhale chloroform until she was insensible, and taking her to an unoccupied building committed a horrible outrage upon her person. After accomplishing their infernal purpose, they left her still insensible, and went away. Upon her regaining consciousness she made her way home, when it was found that her hands and feet were badly frozen by the intense cold. If this story be true, it seems strange that the citizens of Milo do not rise en masse to execute summary vengeance upon the ruffians, who, our correspondent writes, are well known.

☞The soldier's monument, which S. P. Bradbury, Esq., is to furnish the town of Presque Isle, is to be made of Italian marble, on a granite base four feet square. Surrounding the plinth will be a die, on one side of which will be sculptured a group of war-emblems, and on the other three sides the names of the soldiers from Presque Isle who lost their lives in the war of the rebellion, some fifty in number. On the die is to be a cap, with heavy mouldings, and above this a well proportioned spire, surmounted by an eagle. The whole height of the monument will be about fifteen feet.

☞ Within the next twenty days there will be thirty State Legislatures in session—all the States of the Union except New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, California, and Oregon.

Editor's Table.

SERMONS OF T. DEWITT TALMADGE. We have received from Harper & Brothers, through Bailey & Noyes, Portland, the second volume of the sermons of Rev. Dewitt Talmadge of Brooklyn, N. Y. We noticed the first volume at some length, and our remarks with regard to that will apply as well to the volume before us. No one who read the first, will neglect to procure the second volume. These books make a very interesting addition to our religious literature.

MIDDLEMARCH: A STORY of Provincial Life. By George Elliot. In two volumes. New York: Harper & Brothers.

This is the second volume of the green and gold edition of this new novel by George Elliot, uniform with the rest of this popular author's works now in course of publication by the Messrs. Harper. The story has already appeared in their periodicals, and also in cheap pamphlet form, but this edition is just the one for the household library. For sale by Bailey & Noyes, Portland.

THE REVISION OF THE ENGLISH VERSION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT. By J. B. Lightfoot, Canon of St. Paul's and others, with an Introduction by Philep Schraff, D. D. New York: Harper & Brothers.

This Revision was made in accordance with a resolve passed by the Convocation of Canterbury, Feb. 10, 1870, providing for a revision of the authorised version of the New Testament, either by marginal notes or otherwise, in all those passages where plain and clear errors should, on due investigation, be found to exist. The committee to whom the responsible undertaking was entrusted have carefully performed their duties and this is the result. Of its literary merits and critical accuracy scholars and biblical students must be the judges. Bailey & Noyes, Portland, have the work for sale.

DOMBEY AND SON, with 52 illustrations—by Sheppard. Household Edition. Harper & Brothers, New York.

This is altogether the best family edition of Dickens that has ever been published. The pages are large 8 vo., giving ample room for the numerous appropriate engravings. It is printed on fine paper in clear type, and is very handsomely bound. For sale by Bailey & Noyes, Portland.

ECLECTIC MAGAZINE. The January number of the Eclectic commences a new volume. It is embellished with two steel engravings, one of them being a reproduction of Guido's beautiful and pathetic portrait of "Beatrice di Cenci." A fine portrait of Dr. Livingstone also accompanies this number. In literature the Eclectic is always exceptionally strong. Gleaning from the entire field of English and continental current literature, it presents, from month to month, such an array of Scientific Papers, Essays, Biographical Sketches, Reviews, Poems, and Serial and Short Stories, as no single magazine could hope to rival; and it was never so comprehensive and various as it promises to be in the new year. E. R. Pelton & Co., New York.

LIPPINCOTT. The January number of Lippincott's Magazine, which opens the new volume, is at once beautiful, entertaining, and full of promise. The initial article, which is profusely and graphically illustrated, is a popular and very attractive description of "Iron Bridges and their Construction," by Edward Howland. It is replete with useful information, and shows that in the building of iron bridges America is far in advance of every other country. Another handsomely illustrated article of much merit and interest is the second installment of "Searching for the Quinine Plant in Peru." Lippincott's Magazine is evidently taking the lead of all other periodicals in the variety and admirable execution of its engravings. The present issue abounds in lively and exciting stories and tales. J. B. Lippincott & Co., Publishers, 715 and 717 Market street, Philadelphia.

HARPER'S MONTHLY. The January number of this general favorite has been received, and is equal in ability and interest to any of its numerous predecessors. The illustrated articles are unusually attractive, and the stories will be found interesting. Harper & Brothers, New York. For sale in Augusta by J. Frank Pierce.

☞ We have received the Herald of Health for January, which we find to be an interesting number. It contains ten articles on general topics, besides the Editor's Department, which is always full and entertaining. Published by Wood & Holbrook, New York.

GALAXY. The Galaxy's leading article is, Earl Russell, by Justin McCarthy. Then follow, "The Witherell Affair," "French Scenes, &c.," "Wanderings," &c., &c. This is one of the best if not the best Magazines of its class, and just now is an excellent time to subscribe. Published by Sheldon & Co., New York, at $4 per annum.

THE ALDINE. The previous high stand taken by this magazine of art, seems to be surpassed in the January number, which is most excellent in all features. The illustrations which the monthly numbers of the Aldine present, are unsurpassed, and the reading matter is sparkling and vivacious. Every subscriber for the year 1873 will be presented with two fine chromos—"Crossing the Moor" and "The Village Belle." James Sutton & Co., publishers.

THE YOUTH'S COMPANION of Boston is a thoroughly wide awake paper, having among its contributors such writers as Prof. De Mille, Louisa M. Alcott, Sophie May, Mrs. Rebecca Harding Davis, and Mrs. Louisa Chandler Moulton. No writers more attractive in the country, and no publication for young people more enterprising and useful.

COMMON SCHOOLS IN WASHINGTON. The reports of the school trustees and superintendent of Washington show that in 1860 only $32,000 were expended for school purposes, in 1871 it had swelled to $373,000, and the past year to $426,000. In 1870 the number of pupils was 5888; in 1871, 6529, and the past year 6734. One hundred and thirty school buildings, valued at $485,000, are owned or rented, affording accommodations for 7792 pupils. There are 138 teachers and an average attendance of 6231 scholars. The private schools have 5704 pupils. The establishment of high and normal schools is strongly urged. Naturally the papers of the city take a pardonable pride in the educational exhibit.

ENCOUNTERS WITH THE INDIANS. Troops that have been operating against the Apaches near Camp Verde, in Arizona, returned to camp December 17th. Lieut. Rice, commanding a detachment of the 5th cavalry, and the Huatapa scouts fought the Apaches twice in Red Rock county, and killed thirteen warriors, captured several women and children, and destroyed large quantities of corn and supplies. Detachments under Capt. Rice captured eleven women. Another expedition destroyed several camps. Gen. Crook has his entire mounted force in the field and they are moving in every direction against the Indians. Capt. Randall's force had several engagements in Touts Basin, and killed twenty-four warriors and captured three women and children.

☞Mr. George E. Farnsworth, foreman for Treat, Lang & Co., on the old Cook & Lyon town, now called Lang Plantation on Dead River, writes that he has found a pine tree, a "fallen monarch," 92 feet long, that scaled of good timber five thousand six hundred and thirty-six feet.

☞ A dispatch from Chiselhurst at 3 o'clock Tuesday, says Napoleon is worse. It is reported that a meeting of Bonapartists is to be held at Chiselhurst for the purpose of deliberating on the course to be pursued in the event of the death of the ex-Emperor.

☞ The Governor has appointed Wm. W. Bolster, Esq., formerly of Dixfield but now of Auburn, to the office of Bank Commissioner, in place of William Philbrick of Skowhegan, whose term had expired.

Maine Legislature.

The Legislature accomplished but little the first week save to effect an organization. This was done with great ease and on Friday both branches adjourned over to Monday afternoon.

Two important measures were introduced Friday which were tabled and ordered to be printed.

One of these, introduced by Mr. Dingley of Lewiston, was "Bill an Act for the formation of Railroads," in other words, a general rail-road law, differing somewhat in its provisions from Mr. Pike's bill which failed of a passage at the last session, and essentially the same as the one in force in Massachusetts.

The passage of a bill of this kind is an important step toward biennial sessions of the Legislature. It will provoke considerable discussion and its fate is uncertain.

The other measure, introduced into the Senate by Mr. Farrington of Oxford, provides for compulsory attendance at school. We have referred at some length to this subject in another place. Order to provide the members with postage stamps was defeated.

Monday afternoon the Legislature re-assembled and the joint standing committees were announced in both branches. We give only a few of the more important:

On Agriculture. Messrs. Shaw of Penobscot, Abbot of Kennebec, Pennell of Cumberland, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Knight of Rumford, Ford of Atkinson, Hubbard of Berwick, Jordan of Lisbon, Jones of St Albans, Sturtevant of Fayette, Davis of Jefferson, on the part of the House.

On the Judiciary. Messrs. Chaplin of Cumberland, Butler of York, Webster of Knox, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Vinton of Gray, Knowlton of Skowhegan, Titcomb of Augusta, Dingley of Lewiston, Mortland of Rockland, Bisbee of Buckfield, Mathews of Hampden, on the part of the House.

On Legal Affairs. Messrs. Kennedy of Lincoln, May of Kennebec, Farrington of Oxford, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Thomas of Portland, King of Lyndon, Keegan of Madawaska, Barron of Topsham, Haley of Kennebunk, Mason of Biddeford, Adams of Anson, on the part of the House.

On Financial Affairs. Messrs. Davis of Androscoggin, O'Brion of York, Carr of Sagadahoc, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Hatch of Bangor, Milliken of Portland, Reed of Waldoboro', Cushman of Auburn, Hobson of Wiscasset, Weeks of Augusta, Moffitt of Rockland, on the part of the House.

On Education. Messrs. Farrington of Oxford, Kennedy of Lincoln, Chaplin of Cumberland, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Dingley of Lewiston, Corthell of Calais, Gifford of Vassalboro', Knowlton of Skowhegan, Hatch of Bangor, Lord of Saco, Webster of Castine, on the part of the House.

On Railroads. Messrs. Dingley of Androscoggin, Butler of York, Smith of Penobscot, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Fessenden of Portland, Knowlton of Skowhegan, Egery of Bangor, Bennett of Parsonsfield, Bisbee of Buckfield, Winslow of Chelsea, Littlefield of Lyman, on the part of the House.

On Commerce. Messrs. Webster of Knox, Humphrey of Cumberland, Kennedy of Lincoln, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Robson of Wiscasset, Nash of Gardiner, Robinson of Bath, Boardman of Belfast, Paul of Kittery, Loring of Yarmouth, Kalloch of Thomaston, on the part of the House.

On Mercantile Affairs and Insurance. Messrs. Humphrey of Cumberland, O'Brion of York, Abbot of Kennebec, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Loring of Portland, Robinson of Bath, Wood of Bangor, Wheeler of Chesterville, Hawes of Deering, Harmon of Buxton, Campbell of Cherryfield, on the part of the House.

On Manufactures. Messrs. Hobbs of York, Dingley of Androscoggin, Shaw of Penobscot, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Brockway of Dover, Webb of Lowell, Came of Standish, Locke of Fryeburg, Pressey of Lewiston, Croswell of Farmington, Atwood of Cape Elizabeth, on the part of the House.

On Ways and Bridges. Messrs. Abbot of Kennebec, Palmer of Somerset, Howes of Franklin, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Weed of Littleton, Greene of Athens, Stevens of Eastport, Alley of Hartford, Pendexter of Denmark, Thompson of Newfield, Martin of Sebago, on the part of the House.

On Fisheries. Messrs. Whitmore of Hancock, Harmon of Washington, Carr of Sagadahoc, on the part of the Senate; Trefethen of Portland, Trewogy of Surry, Sargent of Brewer, Hinkley of Georgetown, Smith of Stockton, Pendexter of Denmark, Clark of Tremont, on the part of the House.

On Counties. Messrs. Pennell of Cumberland, Hobbs of York, Crandon of Washington, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Rollins of Albion, Howard of Lewiston, Trefethen of Portland, Torrey of St. George, Randall of Richmond, Totman of Clinton, Mason of Searsmont, on the part of the House.

On Towns. Messrs. May of Kennebec, Kimball of Penobscot, Martin of Oxford, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Butman of Plymouth, Rounds of Minot, Coburn of Kingman, Learned of Burnham, Rand of Greenwood, Mortland of Rockland, Robbins of Deer Isle, on the part of the House.

Bill for the formation of rail road corporations was referred to the committee on rail roads.

Bill to incorporate the Coburn Land Company with a capital stock of $5,000,000 was referred to the committee on manufactures. The Corporators are Messrs. A. & W. Sprague and O. D. Lambard. The act gives power to hold real and personal estate to an amount not exceeding the capital stock and to issue bonds to the amount of one million dollars.

Several petitions were presented to have certain territory set off from the corner of Penobscot and annexed to Aroostook; also a large number of bills for private Legislation.

Mr. Foss, Democrat, of Danforth, Washington county, will contest the seat in the Legislature of the sitting member from his district, Mr. Johnson, Republican, of Topsfield. The case is novel. One town returned Mr. Foss as Representative to Congress, and the election certificate was given to his opponent to whom the omission of that town gave a majority.

On Tuesday in the Senate several acts which were referred from the last to the present Legislature were taken from the files and referred to the appropriate committees. Among the more important were an act for a rail road charter from Portland to Bath. An order was passed providing that all petitions for private legislation, when the objects sought can be secured by existing laws, shall be reported "leave to withdraw."

Mr. Butler of York presented petition of United States Government to grant jurisdiction over certain burial lots in Mount Pleasant Cemetery in the city of Augusta, which was referred to the proper commitee.

In the House several petitions from Oxford county were presented praying for an extension of the close time for land locked salmon.

Also several petitions in aid of the railroad from Portland to Bath.

The Judiciary Committee met and agreed to report a bill to provide for compulsory vaccination. They also agreed to report a bill to incorporate the Maine Conference of Unitarian churches.

On Wednesday in the Senate considerable routine business was transacted. A committee on binding and printing was appointed, also a special committee on temperance and prohibition. Mr. Farrington presented a bill relating to the sale of cider. Mr. Butler presented the petition of the Boston and Maine railroad to confirm their present charter from Berwick to Portland. Petitions were also presented for a steamboat line from Lisbon to Lewiston and Bill for uniformity of text books.

In the House an order was presented looking to a geological survey of the State, also for legislation to compel the Oxford Central rail-road to run their cars through the year or forfeit their charter.

An order was adopted providing that the State Institutions shall be visited by a subcommittee of three members from each committee.

Petition of inhabitants of Independent Plantation for incorporation by the name of Kingman; of parties in Winthrop, that certain islands in Cobbosseecontee pond be set off from Manchester and annexed to Winthrop. Referred to the committee on Towns.

☞ The Maine State Prison cleared about $8,000 the past year through the work of its convicts, over and above its expenses, and Massachusetts made a clear profit above all expenses of over $14,000 out of its state prison. Now make the inmates of our county jails help pay their keeping in the same manner.

Items of Maine News.

The recent cold snap in Maine has been the most severe for the past forty years.

In Brewer 850 persons have been vaccinated at the public expense.

The public schools of Eastport have been closed on account of the small pox.

Woodbury C

The Maine Farmer: An Agricultural and Family Newspaper.

The Markets.

Cattle Markets.

AT WATERTOWN, MEDFORD AND BRIGHTON.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 8.

At market for the current week—Cattle 1738; Sheep and Lambs 5,124; Swine 15,700; number of Western Cattle 1561. Northern Cattle and Working Oxen and Cattle left over, 175.

Prices of Beef Cattle, per 100 lbs. live weight. Extra quality $8 00a8 50; first quality $7 25a7 75; second quality $6 25a7 00; third quality $4 75a5 75; poor-est grade of coarse Oxen, Bulls, &c., $3 75a4 25.

Brighton Hides— 9½c per lb. Brighton Tallow 6a 6½c per lb.

Country Hides—9c per lb. Country Tallow 5a5½c per lb.

Calf Skins—16a20c per lb. Sheep Skins $1 50a2 25; Lamb Skins $1 50a2 25 each.

The supply from the West this week has been larger than that of one week ago. The quality of most of the Western Cattle was of an ordinary grade; but a few extra Cattle in market this week. Prices upon all grades remain unchanged from our last quotations. On account of a part of the Western Cattle trains being detained by running off from the track the trade has not been so active as it would have been if they had all got in on time; 42 car loads did not arrive until night on Tuesday. There were but a few Cattle sold as high as our highest quotations this week.

Working Oxen—The trade for Working Oxen is limited, a few pair each week being all that is required for the winter months. We quote sales of one pair, girth 6 ft 10 in, $185; 1 pr, 7 ft, $190; 1 pr, 6¼ ft, $140; 1 pr, 6½ ft, $155; 1 pr, 7 ft 9 in, $175. Prices depend more upon the quality of the Cattle for Beef than they do upon the girth.

Store Cattle—Nearly all the small Cattle and Store Cows are bought up to slaughter. But a few Store Cattle offered in market for sale, the trade being principally confined to Beef Cattle.

Milch Cows—A light supply in market, most of them of a common grade, prices ranging from $20 a $30 per head. Many of the Milch Cows are bought up to slaughter.

Sheep and Lambs.—Those from the West were owned by butchers or taken from the cars at a commission. Western sheep and lambs cost, delivered, 7½a8½c per lb.

Swine.—No store pigs in market. Fat Hogs—15,700 at market; prices 4¼a5c per lb.

Wool Market.

WEDNESDAY, January 8.

There has been considerable doing in domestic, but prices remain without improvement. With tight money holders are disposed to sell for prompt cash, but anticipate a higher range of prices as the season advances. The sales of domesti include 400,000 lbs. Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia fleeces at 46½a47½c, with some small lots of choice at 50a50c; 25,000 lbs. Wisconsin at 43a45c; 150,000 lbs. pulled at 45a48 for super and X, including considerable lots of good super at 45a46c; 100,000 lbs. combing at 70a72½c; 50,000 lbs. unwashed at 43a32½c; 30,000 lbs. scoured at 84c a $1 27½; 4000 lbs tub at 70c; 425,000 lbs fall California at 20a37½c, the latter a very extreme price; and 700c lbs spring do. at 35a40c per lb. In foreign the sales include 150,000 lbs Cape at 37½a42c; 60,000 lbs Montevideo at about 43c; 10,000 choice do. at 47½c; 3000 lbs. New Zealand at 55c; 60,000 lbs Mestiza pulled at 42½a 50c; and 100,000 lbs Mediterranean and East India at 26a27c.

Carpet on private terms.

Boston Market.

BOSTON, January 8.

Flour and Grain—The demand for Flour is steady and market quite firm. We quote:

Western superfine at $5 50a6 25; common extras at $6 50a7 50; Milwaukee and Minnesota extras at $7 5 a 9 50; white wheat Ohio, Indiana and Michigan at $8 50a $10; Illinois at $9 00a11 00; and St. Louis at $9½a12½ per bbl., including choice family brands. Southern Flour is quiet at $7 00a$12 00 per barrel for common extras and choice family. Corn in more demand at 76a77c for Western yellow, and 75a76c per bush for Western mixed. New Corn ranges from 67a69c per bush. Oats are firmer and in demand at 53a55c per bush. Rye $1 05a1 10 per bush. Shorts, Fine Feed and Middlings, $26 00a27 00 per ton.

Provisions.—Pork firm and has been selling at $11¼ a12 00 for prime; $14a14 50 for mess; and $15a16 per bbl for clear. Beef ranges from $12 0a14 for mess and extra mess, and $15 50a17 00 per bbl for family. Lard 84a9c per lb for city and Western; and Smoked Hams 12a13c per lb for Boston; Butter sells at 29a 36c per lb; and Cheese from 11a15c per lb for common and prime.

Produce.—White Beans are firm and medimns are again a shade higher. Sales at $2 87a3 per bush, and choice mediums now held at the latter rate. In extra Pea the sales have been at $3 5 0a3 75; and Yellow Eyes and Red Kidneys have been sold at $3 50a3 75 per bush. Eggs have been scarce and prices rather unsettled, but with more liberal receipts near the close. The market is easier. The sales have been at 38a42c per doz. There is a good supply of Potatoes, and extreme prices are difficult to realize. The sales have been at 90a95c per bush. for Jackson Whites. Poultry has been in fair demand at 15a25c per lb., as to quality.

Hay.—The market is steady for this article, with sales at $27a28 per ton, and choice lots as high as $29 per ton.

New York Market.

NEW YORK, January 8.

Cotton.—Sales 1,856 bales—middling uplands $20¼.

Flour—Sales 15,000 bbls—State $5 95a8 00; Round Hoop Ohio, $7 20a9 50; Western, $5 85a6 35; Southern $6 15a9 75.

Wheat—Sales, 49,000 bushels—No. 2 spring 1 57a 1 87; new 2 do; Winter Red and Amber Western, $1 72a1 90.

Corn—Sales 68,500 bushels—steamer, 63½a66½c; sail, 65a67.

Oats—Sales 63,000 bush.—Western 53a53½; New 51. 52.

Pork—13 75a14 50; Prime 14 00.

Sugar—Porto Rico, 9a9¼; Muscovado, 9a9¼.

Gold and Stock Market.

NEW YORK, January 8.

Money was loaned as high as 1-32 per cent. per day, and interest, slossing at 7 per cent, currency to gold.

Gold advanced from 111¼ to 112½, fell to 112, and closed at 112¼a112½.

Government securities closed at the following quotations:

United States 5sxes (coupons) 1881, 116; 5.20s, 1862, 113; 1864, 114; 1865, 114½; 1865 (new) 113; 1867, 114½; 1868, 114½; 10-40's (coupons), 110½; New 5's,112½

Augusta City Market.

THURSDAY, January 9.

Apples.—Second quality Baldwins and Greenings have been brought into market quite largely during the past week, at 40a60c per bush. First quality winter apple $2.25 per bbl.

Butter.—There is little change to report. Market well supplied at 28a30c for choice lots of fall made; 22a27c for winter made.

Beans.—Very few offered. Nice hand picked pea beans $3 25a3 50; hallow eyes, $2 75a3 00, and but few in market.

Cranberries.—Good quality from native vines, $3.50 per bushel.

Cheese—Choice Livermore 16a18c; country made 12a13c.

Flour—Superfine to common extra, $8 50a9 00; good $9 00a10 00; choice Western $9 50a10 50; St. Louis favorite brands $13 00a13 50.

Grain.—Corn 90c: Barley 80c; Oats 50c; Rye $1 00 al 10.

Hay.—Market well supplied the past week at $16a 18 per ton for choice lots of early cut.

Hides and Skins—Hides 9c; calf skins, nominal, Lamb skins, 75a$1 00.

Lime—$1 35 per cask.

Meal—Corn 93c per bush; rye, $1,10 per bu.

Produce.—Good potatoes are scarce this year; but such as they are, are in good supply at 75c; eggs are plenty, just now, at 33c; domestic lard 14c.

Shorts—$2 00 per 100 pounds—less in large quantities.

Provisions—Beef by the side, 8a10c; round hog, 7a 9c; clear salt pork, $16 00a18 00 per bbl., fowl, 15a17c; mution, 8a10c per lb; choice turkeys 18a20; Spring lamb by the carcass, 12a14c per lb.; Boston cured hams 16a18c; Chickens 15c; 20c being paid for choice lots.

Wood.—Hard wood $6 00a6,50.

NOTE. Our streets have presented a busy scene during the past week, and nearly all kinds of country produce has been offered in good quantities. Prices are satisfactory to both buyer and seller, and business generally has been good.

Portland Market.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 8.

Apples—plenty; Eating are selling at $2 00a2 75, and Cooking at $1 00 per bbl, and good winter, $3 00. Dried apples are dull at 6a6c for Western and 8a 10c for Eastern cored and sliced.

Beans—are firm with a good demand. We quote hand-picked pea beans at $3 25a3 00; yellow eyes at $3 25a3 50.

Butter—Prime Vermont and New York is selling at 2Ga2c cents for tubs. Store is selling from 14a16c.

Cheese—firm—New factory is selling at 16 to 16½. New York Dairy is worth 14a15.

Fish—Are in good demand, with better supply. We quote Large shore, $5 00a5 50; large bank, $5 25a 5 50; small, $3 25a3 75; pollock, $2 25a3 70; hake, $1 50 a2 00 per quint; herring, $3 00a4 50 per barrel; scaled, per box, 20a35; mackerel, per bbl; Bay, No. 3 to No. 1, $7 to 14 00; Shore No, 1 ane 2, $11 to $18.

Flour—Firm for all grades. We quote Superfine, $6 00a6 50; Spring X and XX, $7 25a8 25; Michigan Winter X and XX, $9 00a10 00; Illinois X and XX $7 50a8 00; St. Louis X and XX, $8 75a12 00.

Grain—We quote mixed corn at 75a76c, and yellow at 76a77c, with a large demand. Oats are dull, at 50 a55c, fine feed at $32a35 per ton, and shorts at $28a30.

Hay—Loose, $15a$20 per ton for prime new and old. Pressed is selling at from $17 to $20. Baled straw is selling at $13a15 per ton for prime.

Lard— Dull and quiet. Prime Western, per tierce, 9½a10c per lb; per keg 10c.

Lime—The market is firm at $1 45 pr cask for Rock land. Cement, $2 35a2 40.

Plaster—Soft per ton, $3 25; hard, $2 75a3; Ground in bbls, $8 00a9 00; calcined in bbls $2 75a3 00.

Produce—In good demand. We quote beef side at 9 a 13c; veal 10a12; mutton 10a12c; Chickens in lots, 18a25c; Turkeys, 18a25c; Eggs, 32a35c; Potatoes 75a80 per bush; Onions, $3 75a4 00 per bbl.

Provisions—are very quiet. We quote as follows: Mess Beef, Chicago, $10 00a12 00; Extra Mess, 12 50 a14 50; Plate,$16 50; Extra Plate, $16 00a17 00; Pork backs, $19 00a19 50; clear, 19 00; mess,17 00; Hams, 16a17c.

Salt—Unchanged. We quote Turks Island per hogshead $2 50a2 75; Liverpool, duty paid, $2 50a2 87½; Syracuse, none; Ground Butter, 25c per box.

Bangor Produce Market.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 8.

Beans—Are scarce Yellow Eyes are worth 2 75a3 25 per bush. Pea beans scarce at $3 25a3 75 per bush.

Butter—Plenty in the market. Fair to good lump 22a25; Solid, 20a22.

Eggs—Are in fair supply, and selling at 33 cts per dozen.

Hay—The best qualities of loose sell at $18 to $19 00 per ton. Pressed, $18a20.

Grain—Oats are now worth 60a65c cents per bush. Corn, 90c. Rye is worth $1 00 to 1 10 per bush.

Potatoes—are selling at 75a70c per bush.

Provisions—Round hogs, 7, 7½a8; fresh beef, by the quarter, is worth 8 to 12a13c per lb.

Wool, 4c.—The best quality of wool at 40a65 cts per lb, and wool skins $1 80a2 00; hides are worth from 8 to 8½c per lb,

☞ John Quincy Adams died at the Capitol, while serving as a representative, and was carried from the Representatives' hall into the Speaker's room, where he expired. Perley says a marble bust of him was purchased by Congress and placed in the room, but when the new hall of the House was finished, and the Speaker removed into his new apartment, the bust was carried there, with the portraits of ex-Speakers. The old hall has since been dedicated to the reception of statues of our prominent men, two from each State, and the old room of the Speaker is now occupied by the House Committee on Banking and Currency, of which Hon. Samuel Hooper is the Chairman. Mr. Hooper, thinking that the spot where John Quincy Adams died should be appropriately marked, has had the bust of the "Old Man Eloquent" brought back and placed on a bracket over the spot where he died with the following inscription:

"John Quincy Adams, after fifty years of public service, the last sixteen in yonder hall, was summoned thence to die in this room 23d February, 1848."

Congressional Summary.

Forty-Second Congress.

MONDAY, Jan. 5th.

SENATE. Nr. Sherman offered a resolution directing the Committee on Elections to inquire and report whether the recent election of President and Vice President was conducted in Louisiana and Arkansas in accordance with the laws of the United States, and what contests have arisen as to who are electors, and what measures are necessary to provide for the determination of such contests and to guard against and determine like contests in future; the committee to have power to send for persons and papers and take testimony, and if necessary, authorize suitable disinterested and unprejudiced persons not resident in either of said States to take such testimony as is matterial in the determination of any pending contest growing out of elections

Mr. Morton offered a resolutiou directing the Committee on Elections to examine and report at the next session, upon the best and most practicable mode of electing the President and Vice President and of providing a tribunal to adjust and decide all contested questions connected therewith.

Mr. Edward's resolution asking the Secretary of War to communicate the information in his possession as to the expenditures in suppressing Indian hostilities in Washington territory and Oregon, was agreed to.

A resolution was adopted directing the Judiciary Committee to enquire into the propriety of repealing the national bankrupt law on and after January 1st, 1874, and providing for the immediate repeal of so much of said act as relates to involuntary bankruptcy.

The appropriation bill was agreed to, and at 4.15 P. M., the Senate went into executive session and soon after adjourned.

HOUSE. A large number of bills were introduced and referred.

Mr. Lynch of Maine, offered a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution of the United States for the election of President and Vice President directly by the people.

Mr. Frye of Maine, offered a resolution for public sessions of the Credit Mobilier Committee.

The Speaker then submitted a memorial from John B. Alley, which was read. It represents that great injustice is being done to members of the House, as well as witnesses in the case, consequence of the investigation being conducted with closed doors. It states that he was accosted at the Fifth Avenue Hotel in New York by an excited individual who had been reading what purported to be his (Alley's) testimony in full, in the New York Sun, and who threatened him (Alley) with personal violence for his statements about him. On the suggestion, however, that the publication was not authentic, but an entire fabrication, the excited individual made all proper apologies, and visited his denunciations upon the editor of that paper.

After remarks by Messrs. Poland, Niblack, Coburn, Farnsworth and Cox, the resolution was adopted—yeas 130, nays 7; the negative votes being by Messrs. Hale, Hoar, Maynard, McKee, Pierce, Platt and Twitchell.

A message from the President vetoing the bill to remit the duties on spirits destroyed in bond was presented, read and laid on the table.

Mr. Sargent of California, offered a resolution asking for information as to the suitability of the White House for the President's official and family residence. Adjourned.

TUESDAY, Jan. 6th.

SENATE. Mr. Sherman, from the Committee on Finance, reported a bill authorizing Deputy Collectors and other surbodinate officers of customs to act as disbursing agents in the absence or sickness of the Collector or Surveyor when so designated by the Collector.

Mr. Anthony presented a bill directing the Secretary of the Navy to enter into a contract with the New York and Brooklyn Improvement Co., for lease and improvement of swamp and overflowed lands connected with the U. S. Navy Yard at Brooklyn. The Company is to expend $500,000 in said improvements and enjoy the use of lands and contemplated docks for fifty years as compensation therefor, or be reimbursed if the government takes the property sooner.

After a discussion of an hour and a half the Senate passed Mr. Sherman's resolution calling for an investigation of the Louisiana and Arkansas difficulties.

HOUSE. Mr. Niblack of Ind., from the Committee on Appropriations, reported the annual fortification bill which was made a special order for Tuesday next. It appropriates $999,000.

The Speaker announced the following select committee ordered yesterday on the Credit Mobilier and Union Pacific Railroad questions:—Messrs. Wilson of Indiana, Shellabarger of Ohio, Hoar of Massachusetts, Swann of Indiana and Slocum of New York. Adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 8.

SENATE. The Secretary of the Interior was directed to communicate any information in his possession touching the difficulties with the Modoc and other Indians in California and Oregon.

Mr. Corbett introduced a bill amending the national currency act, so as to provide that the total liabilities of any national banking association shall at no time exceed one-tenth of the amount of its capital stock actually paid in and the surplus profit, provided the discount of commercial or business paper actually owned by the parties negotiating the same shall not be considered as money borrowed. The bill was referred to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE. Mr. Garfield, from the committee on appropriations, asked leave to report a bill appropriation of $2,500,000 for the purpose of an addition to the site of the post office building at Boston.

The House went into committee of the whole and resumed consideration of the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill.

An animated discussion took place on the proposition to increase the appropriation for the bureau of education. Without disposing of the question the committee rose and the House adjourned.

SWEDISH IMMIGRATION. The report of the Commissioner on immigration, Hon. W. W. Thomas, Jr., is preceded by a brief report from the board, Hons. Sidney Perham, Geo. G. Stacy and Parker P. Burleigh, calling attention to the facts presented by the Commissioner.

Mr. Thomas says that Swedish immigration continues steadily to increase the population of the State. In 1870, 114 Swedes arrived and settled in the State. In 1871, this number was augmented to 1000. The effort during the past year has been rather to firmly established the Swedish settlers already within our borders than to add to their numbers.

The Swedish population in the State to-day numbers not less than 1300. The immigrants have paid their own passage to Maine and brought with them $60,000 in cash.—They have not settled in one locality but are distributed throughout the State, engage in various industries, and are everywhere to be found trustworthy and intelligent workmen. Some of the immigrants have purchased improved farms and are in independent circumstances. New Sweden, in Aroostook county, is, however, the heart of this enterprise. A commodious public building has been erected, called the capital; roads have been cut into the woods in every direction, and from those roads lots of 110 acres were run out, a lot assigned to each settler for their cultivation and improvement. Had the past season been ordinarily favorable, two thousand acres would have been cleared and put into a crop. Frequent and copious rains, however, rendered it impossible to get any first general burn on most of the choppings. The crops that were put in have been badly damaged by unexampled wet weather, and have proved a partial failure. The colonist are not at all discouraged, however, but are looking hopefully foward to next season's work. The Swedes have built saw mills, entered into manufacturing business, cut thirty miles of road through the wilderness, established a news paper, church and schools and seem to be prospering finely, if we except the unfortunate damaging of their crops the past season.

The legislature will be asked to grant a moderate appropriation to supply the needy with seed in the spring and food until the harvest time. This is not asked as a gift; each Swede is charged for all the supplies furnished him, and works out his debt on roads and public improvements which are of permanent value to the State.

Since the founding of the colony at New Sweden there have occured seven marriages, fifty births and twenty-seven deaths. Most of the latter were aged people or infants.

AN IMPORTANT ORDER. A Washington despatch says that President Grant will shortly issue an executive order of very great importance to United States office-holders in every State, and which is designed to correct an evil, that, in some States has become too serious to be longer overlooked. The order in question will notify all persons holding United States commissions that the acceptance or holding of office under any State authority is inconsistent with the scope of their official duty, and an improper interference with State concerns. The holding of such office will be deemed the vacation of the positions held by them under Federal authority, and their successors will be appointed.

Foreign News.

Great Britain.

The Russian Government has communicated to Great Britain its plans for a campaign in Central Asia, and offered to allow the British officers to accompany the troops.

The *Times* has an article upon the situation caused by the death of King Kamehameha, says: "We must confess that the Americans will eventually people the Sandwich Islands, which will become a valuable colony between San Francisco and China and Australia." The *Times* reviews the questions of annexation by fillibustering as heretofore practiced in new countries by the great powers, and doubts the right or propriety of any nation taking possession of the Sandwich Islands in such manner.

John F. Pawson & Co., of London, dealers in Manchester goods have failed. Their liabilities are reported at $15,000,000. It is feared that other failures will follow.

France.

At Versailles President Thiers held the usual New Year's reception. The diplomatic body was first received. No speeches were made. The President only exchanged a few words with each foreign representative. Members of the National Assembly followed, and Deputies of all shades of political opinion were cordially welcomed and heartily congratulated.

The census of France for 1872, shows a population of 36,102,921—a decrease of 366,935 since 1866, caused by the war, small pox and a reduction in the number of marriages.

Spain.

The Carlists have torn up the rails on the road between Mirande and Bilboa, and between Alaua and Pamfelona. They also set fire to the railroad stations, destroying them and made prisoners of the railway officials.

The employees of the North Spain railroad have struck and trains have temporarily ceased running.

Greece.

The Greek Government, on the recommendation of the Great Powers, has consented to snbmit the question of the Laurium mines to arbitration.

South America.

President Morals of Bolivia, after having threatened Congress with dissolution because it would not favor his mining projects and abusing not only the members of Congress but his personal staff, was shot dead by his own nephew while the latter was being abused by Morales. Congress quietly elected Gen. Bottessin as the successor of Morales.

Ships Josephine and Alaska with 2,300 barrels of whale oil and 20,000 pounds of bone recovered from the wrecked whalers in the Artic Ocean, arrived at Panama and shipped cargoes via the Isthmus to the United States.

Mexico.

The Mexican Congress adjourned without having passed the Rosecrans project. An English company has entered as competitor with the Alumb and Rosecrans schemes.

During his closing speech President Lerdo, at the conclusion of Congress, said that the sending of embassies to Spain, Germany, and Guatemala had been decreed, and that the creating of the Rio Grande Commission was of the greatest importance, as it would sustain the interests of the Republic and avoid international complications which the Government ought to prevent. The President also asked permission to issue a new loan to meet the necessities of the exchequer, and promised that all railroad projects would receive equal attention, and that Congress would be informed of them.

Rio Janerio.

A mail steamer from Rio Janeiro, Dec. 7, has arrived. General Mitre having brought his negotiations to a close had been honored with a public banquet, which was attended by the chief officers of the Government and leading members of the legislative bodies. The Indians who had made the extensive raid into Uruguay had been driven back and defeated.

Cuba.

All the available regular troops in Havana, numbering 400, commanded by Gen. Chinchilla went to Holquin Saturday. The Volunteers consequently again mount guard on the fortifications about the city.

Acting Captain General Ceballos has sent a Judge Advocate to investigate the recent operations at Holquin. The journals say that only five officers and four privates were killed. The insurgents carried off the regimental chest.

Insurgent sympathizers say the rebels will soon hold an election for the purpose of replacing Cespedee, with Ignacio Agramonte as President. Their object is to create a favorable impression abroad, and avail themselves of Agramonte's superior abilities and energy.

On the night of the 22d the insurgents attacked the town of Maragabomba, but were repulsed by the trroops, not, however, before they had burned eight houses in the town.

On the night of the 28inst., the gendarmes repulsed the body of insurgents who were marching to attack the fortified Spanish camp of Manguan.

Sandwich Islands.

The *Herald's* Washington dispatch reports that while departing to Honolulu for his health Gen. Seofield, Commander of the Department of the Pacific, has received secret telegraphic instructions to watch the course of events in the Hawaiian Island and co-operate with Gen. Pierce, the American Minister, in preventing foreign interests from doing anything inimical to American interests. Several vessels of the Pacific and Asiatic squadron have been ordered to rendezvous at Honolulu without delay.

A letter from Honolulu, of the 15ult, indicates that owing to the drunken habits of William Lunablo, the legal successor of Kamehameha, the natives are not disposed to accept him, but want a Mrs. Bishop, a popular woman there, to succeed to the throne.

China and Japan.

The steamship China arrived the 1st, bringing dates from Hong Kong of Nov. 27. The latest developments relative to the shipping of coolies to Costa Rica are somewhat startling. The Superintendent of Emigration at Macao refused point blank to sign the contracts. The Governer said he would dismiss him from his post if he did not sign them. The Superintendent said that in such a case he would report at once to the Government at Lisbon. Finally he took two weeks' leave of absence, and while away his deputy signed the contracts.

The China also brings dates from Yokohama td Dec. 7. The Department of Religion has been abolished and merged in the Department of Education. The Government talks of reducing the allowance made to old Daimios from 10 to 1 per cent. of the annual revenue.

A destructive storm occurred at Manila on the 12th and 13th of October. Much damage was done to the shipping. One small vessel was lost with fifteen persons.

The *Strait's News* of the 4th of November gives an account of the whipping of convicts in the Philippine Islands, who rallied to the cry "Death to Spain." A serious conflict followed, during which many Europeans and natives were killed and wounded. The rebels were pursued to the mountains and forests. Great numbers were, wounded and captured.

☞ The Belfast *Journal* thus pictures the misfortunes of a resident of Gardiner city, who chanced to take a trip to that section last week. It is said he has a very fine pen picture, received through the mail, reminding him of the perils of that journey, but is choice of the sketch:

Thorndike station, on the Belfast Branch Railroad, has become famous from the enormous padlock that secures the freight house door, and that once did duty on the cell of a murderer. It is a lock that has been the subject of the historian and theme of the poet. Last Monday, a gentleman who was in a great hurry to get home, took the train in this city. When it halted at Padlock Station he alighted to view the famous work of art. He looked it over curiously, measured its vast bulk, and suffered his imagination to wander back over the track of its history. In his mind's eye he saw the condemned in his cell; saw the gallows, and the waiting crowd; beheld the condemned emerging to the sunlight of his last day, and—

"Hello, mister, the train's gone!" shouted a small boy. He looked to behold the rear car swinging round a curve in the distance. In vain the wild race, useless the swinging of the beckoning hat, futile the imploring shout. Ths distance to Burnham is twelve miles as the crow flies. The man who was in a hurry to get home hadn't the wings of the crow, but he accomplished the distance much as that bird would, viz: by his personal powers of locomotion. They do say that the man who keeps the Evans House at Gardiner knows more about the present appearance of the upper part of the road than anybody except the section men, and is well acquainted with the individual who fell through the treacherous snow that concealed a cattle guard. But he knows most about padlocks.

WOMAN'S DEVOTION. The latest story of woman's devotion is told of Sarah Winemiller of Wheeling, West Virginia. Having had a lover who was arrested for horse stealing, she burned a building that she might be arrested and suffered to share his captivity. It transpired, however, that the young man was not guilty, and he was acquitted accordingly.—Poor Sarah, on the contrary, was convicted and sentenced. The Governor of West Virginia is, however, a humane man. Learning all the particulars of the case, he generously pardoned Sarah, who has probably ere this, changed the beautiful name of Winemiller for that very uncommon one of Smith with no "y" in it.

STATE TREASURERS' REPORT. The report of Hon. William Caldwell, Treasurer of State, has been submitted to the Legislature, but as the leading facts were furnished for the message of the Governor, we shall notice it but briefly:

The new loan of $800,000 has all been paid from the sinking fund established for the purpose. That portion of the public debt that became due in 1872, amounting to the sum of $40,000, was paid at maturity, and on the first day of January, 1873, the public debt was represented by $7,187,000. Deducting the sinking funds (1,020,247) held for the payment of the same, the debt will stand at $6,167,653.

The present amount of the sinking fund is $728,252.39, which is well invested. The present debt of the State is now represented by $1,501,0g0 registered, and by $5,626,900 coupon bonds.

The school fund for the year 1872, accruing from the interest on the permanent school fund ($18,778.50,) and the semi-annual tax (due May 4, 1872) on savings banks ($57,334.89,) amounting to the sum of $76,113.39, was apportioned as required by law to the several cities, towns and plantations in this State, as designated in the schedule annexed to the report. There is also included in the same schedule the apportionment of the school mill fund, accruing from taxation, as provided in an act approved February 27, 1872, and amounting to the sum of $224,529.95.

The aggregate of the several sums to be apportioned under existing laws during the year 1873, to the several cities, towns and plantations in this State for the benefit of common schools, will be about $367,000. The receipts from the Land Office have been $10,690.23.—From the several leases of shores and islands belonging to the Penobscot Tribe of Indians, the sum of $6,086.16 has been received during the year 1872, which sum has been credited to the Penobscot Indian Fund, now amounting to the sum of $73,828.48. The sum of $50,000, of the loan of 1856, will become due March 1, 1873, and will be paid from the current funds of the Treasury. If there are no extraordinary appropriations made by the Legislature, the State tax for the year 1873 can be reduced to an assessment of five mills on the dollar of the valuation, being a reduction of $170,000 from the State tax of 1872. The Treasurer has had no occasion to avail himself of the provisions of a resolve authorizing a temporary loan.

END OF THE STOKES' TRIAL. Upon the opening of the Court of Oyer and Terminer, at New York, Saturday, Mr. Tremaine resumed and concluded his argument for the defence of Stokes. Mr. Beach followed after a recess of half an hour, with the closing argument for the government, and then Judge Boardman delivered his charge. "The jury was not long in agreeing upon a verdict of murder in the first degree.

This announcement created infinite and almost universal astonishment, the result anticipated being acquittal or disagreement. Stokes received the verdict with apparent composure, but his sister, who was at his side, gave way to the most violent emotions.

Monday morning Stokes appeared in court, and on being asked by the presiding Judge if he had anything to say why sentence of death should not be pronounced, he simply remarked that he had not intentionally violated law, and had been convicted by perjury. The Judge then sentenced him to be hanged on the 28th of February next. Exceptions were filed by the prisoner's Counsel and the case will probably go to the Court of Appeals and two years may transpire before it will be finally disposed of. This verdict may be regarded as the first fruits of the new Jury Act, which allows intelligent men to sit as jurors. It is said that other murderers now confined in the tombs, fear and tremble at the verdict in the case of Stokes.

SIMPSONIAN. The Portland *Press* in a recent issue published the following:

Fourteen years ago an old lady in Portland, fell dead from heart disease while winding up an old-fashioned clock. The time was ten minutes before 10 in the morning. Ever since that the clock has stopped at 10 on the anniversary of her death. It has never once failed in the fourteen years that have passed.

To this, Simpson of the Belfast *Journal* thus rejoins:

The above paragraph is having an extensive circulation in the papers. But it falls far behind the mournful interest which attaches to a kindred incident in this vicinity. An old gentleman who for many years had taken his regular eleven o'clock drink of Medford, died suddenly and mysteriously just after hoisting in his morning refreshment. And ever since, on the anniversary of the sad event, just as the clock marks the hour of eleven, the tumbler is taken up by invisible hands, the bottle is lifted, a good three-finger drink poured out, and the glass lifted to lips that are never seen. Some have affirmed that they can hear the old fellow smack his lips with satisfaction as the glass is replaced. We want Portland to understand that no old lady's clock is going to take the palm on ghost stories from this locality.

CONFESSION OF A MURDERESS. Mrs. Lydia Sherman of Derby, Conn., who was convicted of the murder of her husband last April, and who has been confined in the New Haven jail ever since waiting a movement for a new trial, has made to Mr. Webster, her lawyer, a full confession of her deeds and a complete history of her life. The particulars he refuses to impart, and access to the accused is not allowed. From what is learned it appears that she has confessed that she killed Sherman and his two children with poison, and that years ago she also poisoned her first husband, Struck, and his children when living in New Jersey. She denies, however, that she killed her second husband, Dennis Hurlburt, in whose remains the chemist found arsenic. After her sentence this week, which will be to State Prison for life, Mr. Webster will publish the whole history, which is said to be the most startling and thrilling tale of crime ever committed.

JOKING SPEAKER BLAINE. The Washington *Capitol* is responsible for the following:

A good story is in circulation at the expense of our able friend Speaker Blaine. Old Job Saidkell, a colored man, has been in the whitewashing business since the days of Washington. He is a lively old darky, and he dropped in to say "dat some dem fellers fooled him like the debble." And it seems that some wags, soon after Speaker Blaine had made his dramatic demand for an investigating committee, told old Joe, always in search of work, that Mr. Speaker Blaine had the biggest sort of a job of whitewashing on hand, and he J. S. had better see him. Duly armed with bucket and brnsh, the old man took a pull at the bell of the speaker's palatial residence, and on its being answered, said, "I wants to see the speakah."

He was shown into the library, where parliamentary law and gavel relaxed in gown and slippers.

"Well, my man, what's wanted?"

"I heard, sah, dat you had a mighty big job ob whitewashin' on hand, an' I jes drop along to see ef I could git it."

"Whitewashing?" repeating each separate letter as if dropping the word from a vial into a spoon.

"Yes, sah; dey do say dat you is gwine to whitewash de whole House ob Repumsentatives."

"You infernal old scoundral," cried the speaker, but he could not refrain laughing at the amazed look of the venerable African.

"Lord, sah, Ise no scoundrel, I only axed you for yer job ob whitewashin'—dat's all. Now—now—now look ye heah," he continued in some trepidation as he saw the speaker rise to a question of order, "I do'no what you mean. An' you jist tell me of you want dat whitewashin' or not—eh?"

"Look here, old man," exclaimed the speaker, "some stupid ass has been imposing on you."

"An' den, sah," said old Job to us, "he 'splain de matter, an' "—Here the old fellow's countenance opened in the most alarming manner, and from its cavenous depths came a "Yah yah, yah," of the heartiest sort.

THE CHASE PROPERTY. Walter Conway, in the Portland Transcript, makes the following assertion in regard to the famous Chase property:—

"The whole movement is without foundation. This I have from the *best* authority. Mr. Geo. B. Chase, of this city, is a direct descendant from the eldest son of Aquila Chase, the eldest of the two brothers who originally settled in this country, and has many of his ancestors' original papers. Mr. Chase is in a position to know the exact truth in the matter, and indeed took occasion some years ago to possess himself of all the facts, and he tells me *there is nothing whatever* in the stories of a Chase property in England, and never was. He believes that the story was first started by some person who desired to travel in England and knew of no better way of raising funds than to collect money from the ready believers in his marvelous reports.

THE WRECK OF THE SACRAMENTO. Mr. C. J. Wingate formerly of Waterville, who with his little son Willie, was on board the ill-fated steamer when she foundered on the Pacific coast, in a letter to the *Mail* gives the following account of the disaster:

At Panama we took passage in the steamship Sacremento, mate to the Chauncy, the two best steamers of the line. Up to the sad disaster on the night of the 5th inst., the passage on the Pacific side was unusually mild and pleasant. We passed the states of Granada, Guatemala, San Salvador, and Costarica, and made our first port at Acapulco, Mexico. Also touched at Mansanilla, San Blas, and Mazatlan. Even across the gulfs of Tehauntepec and California, in both the seas were as smooth and calm as rivers.

All were cheerful and delighted on board until the fatal night of the 5th. In fog and darkness, at 11-15 we experienced a terrible crash, the ship plunging and thumping. I was thrown through my state room door across the passage and into another room, the door closing on my hand badly jamming two of my fingers. With difficulty all gained the deck, nothing seen but rocks peering above water on each side of the ship, nothing heard but the roaring of breakers all around us. Even the good captain knew not where we were.

All expected, at first, that the ship would break up in less than an hour; but being very staunch she held well, and after swaying and pounding for about an hour, she partly broke across the deck aft the engine, and settling in the sand and partly filling with water, when both ship and passengers became more quiet.

For six long hours, in darkness, we waited for the dawn of day. At last it came! we were about 12 miles from the main and about 10 miles from the little desolate Island of San Geromino, desolate indeed, for on it was neither wood nor water, and at only one point could a boat land through the surf. A boat explored the coast for 20 miles and found no landing, another was sent 60 miles to San Quentin, returned in 3 days and reported no water and the little town deserted. Another boat rowed 220 miles to San Diego. On the morning after the disaster at 9 A. M. the boats were lowered and manned and the passengers with no baggage, but with a little provision and water, were ordered to the Island. The boat in which we went being one of the largest took on 60 souls, so heavy was the swell although quite calm. I tossed my little boy about 10 feet into the boat and the good, stout, colored barber caught him in his arms, then myself jumping about as far landed tumbling to the boat. Before dark all had safely landed on the Island, but with so little water, no rations could be served. That night we passed upon the open beach; the next morning after 24 hours, was served one hard tack and a half gill of water to each person, and the same for the next 24 hours.

The ship still holding on, the weather happily calm, more provision and some water came off, so that each day after, a cup of coffee, and a hard tack in the morning, and soup in the evening was daily served; but no day more than one-third tumbler of water.

On the second day tents were raised and all got under cover. All of the baggage was finally landed, and about half a million of silver treasure from Mazatian.

Our greatest anxiety now was that our boat for San Diego might give out; but after rowing ninety hours, they arrived at San Diego, and at the same hour the fine steamer Montana came in, and immediately steamed away to relieve us. She was signaled her at daylight on the fifth day of landing on the Island, and when the report of her big gun came booming over the water, our hearts became joyous indeed.

At two P. M. that day we were all safely on board the Montana, and on Friday the 13th we landed safely at San Diego, and find here excellent accommodations and a rest to our wearied limbs; and I hope that none will fail to offer up most heartfelt thanks to our Maker that all were rescued from so perilous a situation.

THE MARRIAGE OF THE EMPEROR OF CHINA. The following is from a private letter to the London Daily News, dated Pekin, China, Oct. 16th:

We had what I had never expected—a perfect view of the procession yesterday at the marriage of the Emperor of China. We succeeded in getting immediately opposite the entrance to the Imperial Palace, and persuading the mandarins sent up to order us down that we ought to be allowed to stay, and they fortunately assented. The *coup d' ail* was magnificent. The procession was not very long, but the dresses and appointments were splendid. First came a prince on horseback; then forty-eight white ponies, with yellow housings, led by men in scarlet; the band, in scarlet, silent; thirty-two banners, forty eight fans (big round things), two black umbrellas, two white ditto, two embroidered yellow ditto, one hundred and ninety-two lanterns (all these things carried by men in scarlet); Prince Kung, looking very handsome, on horseback, with his four-bearer chair carried beside him; the chair yellow and gold, carried by sixteen coolies, all in scarlet

Poetry.

Written for the Maine Farmer.

FAREWELL TO THE YEAR.

BY HAL LOWELL.

The hour is striking! O, ring out,
Sadly, ye midnight bells!
Not peals of joy, or merry chimes—
Toll now your notes of saddest rhyme,
Your dirges and farewells!
For we who gather here,
In the midnight dark and drear,
Haveither come to celebrate
The funeral of The Year.

The wild winds called the mourners—
They and the evening breeze;
Ever since the sun went down
They 've been wailing thro' the town,
And sighing in the breeze.
"He comes!" the sad winds said,
"That Presence weird and dread!
Oh, hush, and pray! for very soon,
The Old Year will be dead!"

The snow flakes, white and solemn,
Come bringing in the shroud—
Just a year ago this morn,
They robed the Year, now-born;
And now, a fleecy cloud,
Drifting there, floating here,
They lightly drape his bier.
The last couch he will lie on—
Poor, old, dying Year!

Who cometh as chief mourner?
The Ice-King, stern and cold.
"I forgive him for the past,
I, his first friend, am his last—
I will no malice hold.
He coquetted with the Spring,
He wore Summer's emerald ring;
But his heart was true at last,
So I will mourn for him."

Old Jack Frost wept above him,
And every frozen tear
Shone, 'till his pillow there,
Seemed set with jewels rare,
Flashing o'er all his bier.
His fingers, deft and fine,
Wove many a quaint design—
A web of jeweled tapestry,
His ermine pall to line.

The bells of midnight ring no more,
The Year is dead and gone,
Worn, and weary, and gray, and old,
Passed into darkness, strange and cold—
Another Year is born!
We have paid the last sad due;
We have worn the funeral rue;
Now, naught remain-th but to say,
"Good-bye, old Seventy-Two!"

Unto your grave, O, dear, dead Year!
I bring a hope, dead too;
Long as I live, within my heart,
That hope hath never more a part—
I burry it with you.
Life floweth on and on,
The years shall go and come;
But never year can give again
The sweet hope that is gone.

Our Story Teller.

A Confidential Housekeeper.

I repeat again, and to myself, Mrs. George is an admirable house-keeper, and a very superior woman. Her eyes are sparkling and penetrating; her hair ripples and waves like that of a child. I am—ahem!—most charmed with Mrs. George. Not only are the eyes of Mrs. George extremely penetrative, but her conception of character is something marvelous. I confess I was astonished when she laid before me the delinquencies of my two old servants. Starkey and Tom had lived with me fourteen years, but upon the advent of this admirable woman I suddenly learned that I was being plucked; that half my meats were taken off to poor relations; that the cat was *not* answerable for my butcher's inflated bills, and that the dog had lived very comfortably on table leavings since then. It is very plain that Mrs. George is an immensely superior woman. I liked her frank way of speaking about the furniture.

"A gentleman's house in your position, and of your appearance"—yes, she was pleased to say, of your *appearance*—"should not be shabbily furnished, sir. Not that I care. For myself, plain three-ply and walnut, or even chestnut; but for these delightful rooms; Turkey, sir, with brilliant colors, and a set, sir, in satin and gilt."

Well, of course, I had the parlors thoroughly refurnished, and I laid a neat new Brussels in Mrs. George's own room. To see that lovely woman's gratitude! it was beautiful.

Thus was I soliloquizing early one morning over my eggs and toast, when Mrs. George came gliding in with the airy grace of a sylph. I never saw a sylph in my life, but I am sure that is the proper thing to say.

"Really, Mrs. George—" I began.

"Now, don't scold me, dear sir. You see, I knew my duty"—with that smile that touches my too susceptible heart, as the moonlight kindles the melting snow. "Your eggs are done as you like them, I trust: I always see to such things myself." And as she sat down and placed her slender hand on the spotless table-cloth, I could not tell which was the whitest.

"The eggs are simply perfect, Mrs. George, was my reply; "and I never tasted better bread."

"I always have my eye on Betty when she is making bread, Mr. Haynes. So much depends upon these humble culinary efforts. Alas!—" and she sighed softly—"we live in degenerate days, sir, when women seek their pleasures outside of the sacred portals of home. I have never allowed myself, sir, to be distracted from my legitimate pursuits."

"I believe you, Mrs. George," said I warmly, and a diamond solitaire glittered before my mental vision, or perhaps I should say, sentimental vision; but how was a man to hold out long against the charms of so nobly planned a woman, with taper fingers and gentle, downcast eyes, and such blessed notions of the beauty of domestic life?

"I trust your breakfast pleased you, sir?"

"Upon my word, Mrs. George," I said, her bewildering eyes smiling into mine, "I never was so charmed in my life."

She blushed. What had I said to bring that exquisite dye upon her cheek? I grew frightened, and backed away from the table, pulling on my gloves.

"How soon do you go, sir," she asked, rising, her slender fingers playing with a little chain that relieved the dead black of her dress.

"And as you are to be gone all day—am I correct, Mr. Haynes?"

I nodded.

"As you are to be gone all day, and as I invariably see to such things myself, would you leave the key of the safe with me? The silver has long been in need of scouring, and you really should not be so extravagant as to send it to a silversmith's for that purpose, as most gentlemen do. I have a wonderful powder—my dear old mother gave me the receipe; for, indeed, sir,"—a plaintive tenderness gliding into her pathetic tones—"we have had silver in our family; my mother was a Hancock."

She paused, my glance, I trust, was full of sympathy.

"Yes, sir, a Hancock. But reverses, sir, sad reverses, swept everything away," with a stately wave of her white hand. "The powder is invaluable. I might, could I condescend make my fortune with it. Do you think you had better leave the key, or," drawing her fine figure up, "will you take the silver—"

"Mrs. George, I beg—Here are the keys, Mrs. George."

There were ten thousand dollars in that safe, and I detatched the key of the money-drawer.

"Thank you; you will hardly know your plate to-morrow," she said, with pretty laughing lips. "Pray, pray wrap up well; it is such a wind!"

Thump went my heart.

"You will be home—when? I always prefer to have an explicit understanding, so that everything may be in readiness."

"To-morrow at twelve, Mrs. George," was my reply, wondering how it would seem to kiss a pair of lips just as dewey and pouting as hers; and then I tore myself from the temptation, shook hands with Mrs. George, and left the house.

"Straws show which way the wind blows," says the old adage. It is my opinion that hats occasionally do that little favor for mankind. At least mine took the liberty to do so that morning.

I had now ten minutes in which to reach the B——station. The depot was only a few squares distant, and I was walking as comfortably as I could, bracing myself against the wind, when a sweeping gust came round the corner. Something was lifted from my head: it was my hat.

My first impulse was to look roand to see if anybody was laughing—I always laugh myself at a flying hat—and then I betook myself to sport. The hat only ambled; I was sure to catch it. It lodged against a gas-post; my hand was almost on it, when the twin to that other gust came racing along, and off went my hat. It was very early, and there were but few people abroad. I heard now and then a faint laugh; a scurvy little urchin sang out, "Go it, boots!" a Hibernian maid carrying a large parcel in a small paper, cried, "Shure the hat's leading that man a chase!" but on I went, breathless, chagrined, and mad. Up Oak street, down Green, across Maple, and through Cherry that confounded hat led me; now doubling and fluttering almost under my nose; now gyrating with exultant motion, that dumbly expressed the jubilee of uncontrolable jolity; now whirling into somebody's garden; now whisking round a barber's pole; now bobbing along the edge of a fence, till at last—at *last*—I had it.

Death could not grip harder then I held on to that errrtic brim. It was, I felt, a hat gifted with extraordinary powers of locomotion, and I did not mean to let it have its own sweet will again.

I pulled out my watch with one hand, holding still to my hat with the other. It wanted one minute to seven, and the train was five blocks off. Hoping against hope, I set off on a run, and at the corner of the third block had the supreme satisfaction of hearing the final whistle, and the swift thud and thunder of the departing train.

I was balked, and gave my hat a savage pull as I stopped to consider what had best be done. I anathematized hats of every sort from the orthodox stove-pipe to the Quaker broad-brim. To have crushed the offending member as flat as a pancake, and then finished it with my pen-knife would have been balm to my aggravated soul.

Turning my steps in the direction of my office, I walked moodily on, a disappointed man. Instead of the holiday which I had so fondly anticipated, the merry greeting of friends the sight of old, long-banished faces, I was still bound to the perplexities of an interminable law case.

It would be as well, perhaps, to attend to business, I thought, with a rueful visage; and I prepared to resign myself with the best grace possible.

My office was nearly two miles from my house. After a leisurely walk I arrived there just as the clock struck eight. Up I went, scattering straws and papers, till I gained the cheerless, unarpeted passage, and saw, opposite, my own square of painted glass, and the card, "Not in till to-morrow;" and then I found that I had left my office key in my other vest pocket, in my dressing-room wardrobe at home.

Clearly I had begun the day wrong foot foremost, as my old nurse used to say when everything went awry. What should I do next? I meditated upon the matter going down stairs, utterly oblivious of a basket of oranges at my elbow till the vicious scream of the old fruit peddler startled me.

"Sacre! Sare, you are no zhentleman."

I turned thrilled with horror. The oranges were racing pell-mell down stairs, to the delight of several street urchins, and out into the gutter. I, unfortunate wretch, had sent them there with an unconscious movement of my arm as I gesticulated to myself.

Nothing stirs mutiny in a man's soul quicker than the imputation of not being a gentleman. A five dollar bill, however, healed the noisy foreigner's wounds, and mine too, for with one of his most fantastic bows the peddler repeated, "Sare, I was mistake; I see you air von zhentleman."

There was nothing for it now but to go home again. I pleased myself with pictures of Mrs. George busy over my silver. I make no secret of saying that I like to see delicate, refined women at work. The bare, round, blue-veined arms, temptingly displayed just below the elbow; the pretty handkerchief tied over flowing tresses; the stout, linen apron jealously keeping guard from throat to toes; the quick fine step; the musical gurgle of some sweet, old favorite song; the dash and spirit they contrive to throw into commonplace observances; the mimic bluster when one of the stupid masculines intefere with their privileges, if it is only in trying to find the shoe-brush—make up a charming aggregate, delightful to one who has never had a more intimate acquaintance than his housekeeper.

So should I see Mrs. George, perchance, herself rubbing with those white, taper fingers the old silver that my mother once delighted to honor. It needed only this experience, I felt, to make a willing slave, to send me in hot haste to Ball & Black's to choose the finest, costliest solitaire to be found in their brilliant collection.

I reached my home; I mounted the steps. There was a strange silence about the premises. No cheerful bustle, no merry voices, no sound of footsteps, no ring of clattering silverware—no anything.

I pulled the bell. Still completest silence; not even Jip's little, cheery yelp warned or welcomed the solitary and disappointed homeseeker. The parlor blinds were closed, the basement shades were down; it seemed as if there must be a corpse in the house. Again and again I rang. The bell, a powerful one, jingled spitefully, as if it took pleasure in insisting that there was nobody at home. I descended the steps; I went round to the back gate and succeeded in loosening the hook that confined it with my pen-knife. All was silent here as elsewhere; the servants must be gone. "What the deuce is in it all?" I muttered, impatiently.

Perhaps Mrs. George had postponed her silver cleaning till afternoon, and had gone to a matinee; but where were the servants?

There was, fortunately, a window at the back of the house that could be unfastened on the outside. The contrivance was one of my own and nobody was in the secret but myself. I opened the window, and had just fastened my knees comfortably on the stone coping, when a heavy hand grasped my elbow.

"I noticed something suspicious, and followed you, you rascal! Ain't you ashamed—a man looking like a gentleman—breaking into a house like a common thief?"

The fellow held me in his grasp as if it were a vise. I looked over my shoulder. A star blazed on the wretch's blue-coated breast; there was a gilt number on his cap; his breath smelled of—but we won't mention that; his nose was a turn-up, his hair was a little red-dish—this is original—and the whole contour of the man told of his Paul Pry instincts. I felt my eyes flash, my cheeks burn, and I mentally resolved, after crushing and cutting, to put my unlucky hat, that had led me into all these scrapes, into the kitchen stove.

"What do you wish, sir,?" I exclaimed, with as much dignity and severity as my very peculiar and cramped position would permit. "Unhand me—quick, sir! I am no thief, but the lawful owner of No. 1440. My name is Haynes, Robert Haynes; go round and look at the door-plate."

"None of that blather, young man," said the officer, sternly; "you've scrutinized that door-plate pretty thoroughly. I've had my eye on you for some time."

"You don't know what you are talking about. Let me get down, sir," said I, hotly. "I tell you I am Mr. Haynes, Robert Haynes, law office on Cooper street. I shall not condescend to explain to you how I happen not to have the key of my own front door. You have only to accompany me to Judge Holt's, on the right here, and ask any member of the family whether I am or am not Mr. Robert Haynes."

"Very well got off, my young gentleman, but you must allow me to take your arm."

"I am not in the habit of walking arm in arm with policemen," said I haughtily.

"Then I shall be obligbed to arrest you for suspicious conduct," he responded, preparing the way for action.

There was nothing for it but to submit to have his blue sleeve passed through my black one, and proceed to the residence of the judge—to find out if I was—myself.

We had hardly passed to the sidewalk when, fortunately, the judge himself came along.

"Hallos, Haynes!" he cried, and then glanced at the figure at my side.

"I am about to be arrested for breaking into my own house," I said returning his salutation. The policeman had suddenly dropped my arm, as if it burned him. The old judge, who relished a joke, burst into a guffaw of laughter, which brought the neighbors to their windows.

"By the way," said the judge, when he had recovered himself, "you had better keep your friend of the star in tow. My wife spoke to me about your house-keeper this morning; said she went away in a carriage, and took more bundles than she brought when she came."

My heart beat almost audibly. Could this gentle-browed, low voiced woman, of whom I had thought in connection with a diamond engagement ring, be vile enough to deceive me, to despoil me? The supposition was too dreadful.

"I counsel you to attempt another raid," he added. "Perhaps Johnny, here, will give you a boost," and he laughed again. "It may be all the purest conjecture on my wife's part, you know. Ladies are apt to be suspicious if house-keepers. Ha! ha! ha!"

It might be all a mistake! It was a mistake, I repeated, almost furiously, to myself Mrs. George, that quiet-moving, perfectly lady-like person; Mrs. George, whose slightest step had sometimes set my pulses fluttering; of whom I dreamed I dare not say how often: whose superb eyes, swan-like throat and stately presence I had admired untold of times—she to descend to any little petty meanness to house-lifting!

I entered the domicile at the back window bidding the policeman to be within call. The first thing I saw in the basement passage was the dead body of poor Jip, my pet terrier. He had evidently been poisoned. I walked through the lower rooms. A costly bronze clock and three expensive vases were gone from the parlor shelf; also a very beautiful little group in terra cotta, for which I had given an extravagant price. On a closer examination I saw that the edges of my new carpets were loose. They had certainly been tacked down before.

I opened the door into the front hall, which literally swarmed with packages. They stood on the chairs, on the hat-rack, on the table—everywhere. Not caring to stop to examine these evidences of dishonesty, I went up stairs to the second story. There on a toilet-table lay a neatly folded note, of which the following is a transcript:

"DEAR MAT: I have packed everything that could be conveniently carried—the clothes, the silver, the books, and as many light ornaments as possible. I think you might easily take the carpets, if you are expeditious and can rely upon your men. The old gentleman won't be home till noon to-morrow. I have circulated a report that he intends to dispose of some of his furniture; consequently you might fill a couple of large vans. The money I have in my possession. I contrived to loosen the carpets at the edges, but could not move the heavy furniture. You can fold the first, and your men can carry out the latter. I hope you have followed my directions as to dress; the neighbors will think you are Mr. Haynes. If it had not been for you, Mat, I would have let him make love to me. I could twist him around my finger! After you are through I shall be at the place designated. The servants are in my pay, and I have sent them off. You cannot tell how patiently I have looked forward to the completion of this little scheme. My dear Mat, if we get off, (we shall get off), we are made for life. And now, my darling, farewell for a short time. I wish I could have seen you, but this letter must suffice. Destroy it at once."

So she could twist me round her finger, could she? The truth in this bold assertion made me wince; I felt like a fool down to my finger ends.

The "star" joined me at a signal, and we went up stairs together.

"It's the most audacious thing I ever heard tell of!" he exclaimed. "We will wait up here and see the game out. I'll bow the shutters, and there'll be fun before long. Have you got any shooting irons?"

I went to my room and returned with two revolvers.

"That is good," he said, his stolid face lighting up. "Now we are prepared for them. It will be a pretty case. Suppose you suspect the house-keeper?"

I had kept the contents of the letter to myself, merely giving him a hint or two, but I felt my blood boil at the mention of Mrs. George.

"Yes, of course I suspect the house-keeper. She turned off my old servants and brought two creatures of her own here. Nobody knows how much they have carried off."

"It's risky business," muttered the "star," with a shrewd glance. "Men ain't safe with women folks about, unless the ladies are in the firm, by Jove! Rather nice looking?" and the fellow winked vulgarly.

"No, ugly as the deuce!" was my half savage reply. It would never do to let this man know how I had been cajoled by an artful interloper.

"Here's our game!" whispered the policeman, as a stylish carriage drove up to the door.

I looked down. The make up of the thief was complete. A casual acquaintance would have sworn that it was me. The fellow sat gracefully back in his carriage, waited till the coachman opened the door, and stood there a moment on the sidewalk, looking carelessly around.

"Sure, it's a perfect duplicate; but he'll send the carriage off presently. It's inspecting he'll be about for a time, and then a different kind of carriage'll be in waiting."

Sure enough, the stylish equipage was driven off, and the man with the very trick of my step lourged coolly up to the door, the red lining to the cape of his coat jauntily displayed. Since that day I have discarded red lining.

The door opened, and the fellow went prowling over the lower rooms. In a few moments he was joined by two other men, whom he let in by the back basement door.

"We'll contrive to intercept them," whispered the policeman. "You just stand here with your two pistols, and I'll find my way down, so as to surprise them. If they show fight, fire."

He crept down stairs. I waited, trembling a little, but resolute. The men trampied about for a while, and said something about a dray round the corner. Presently they gathered in the parlor, and began to take up the carpet, thinking, no doubt, they were working for Mr. Robert Haynes. Then the star posted himself in the back door, and called me down by a sign.

It was quick work. The poor fellows turned pale—the robbers—when they saw the pistols. The three were marched off in order, and in a few hours afterward star and I were entering the crowded passage of the B—— depot. We wended our way to the ladies' room. Mrs. George was there, as beautiful, as cool, as graceful as ever. When I pointed her out—

"The devil!" blurted star; "I thought you said she was ugly. That woman? Thunder and 'ounds!"

My blood was up, however, and I felt no pity. Twist me round her finger, could she? I wondered if she would attempt it now. I walked coolly up to her. A large valise stood on end by her side.

"Mrs. George," said I, "I'll thank you for that ten thousand."

I never saw such a face on any mortal being in my life. All the vitality seemed struck out of it; it was white, dull, and dead with dismay, frightening, shining eyes almost starting from the sockets. I did not know whether she meant to scream, to swear or run. She gave a gasp or two, and half rose, but star's "Please to keep your seat, madam," sent her back.

Upon my soul, after the first moment of gratified revenge, I pitied the poor woman; saw only my gentle, refined house-keeper, with her soft, pleading eyes. It was well the policeman got me out of the way, or for the second time I might have made a fool of myself.

Some years afterward, when a different sort of house-keeper sat at the head of my table—a petite woman with blonde hair, and eyes that melted the heart in a man—I heard from Mrs. George. Sae was keeping bar in a San Francisco restaurant.

The Stone-Cutter.

A Japanese Romance.

Once upon a time there was in Japan a poor stone-cutter, a simple workman in the quarries. His life was rude, he worked much, gained little, and was not at all contented with his fate.

"O, if I could only be rich enough to rest to sleep on thick matting, wrapped in a kirmon of soft silk!" Such was the sigh he breathed to heaven. An angel intercepted it.

"It shall be according to thy desire," said the angel to him. And he at once became rich and he rested, slept upon thick matting and wrapped himself in a kirmon of soft silk.

It happened that the Emperor passed by. He was preceded by heralds on foot and horseback followed by a brilliant escort of cavaliers, and surrounded by persons who held an immense parasol resplendent with gold.

"What good does it do me to be rich?" murmured the man, "as long as I have not the right to go out with an escort, and my head protected by a golden parasol! Why am I not the Emperor?"

"Thou shalt be." said the angel.

And indeed, he became the Emperor. He had an escort of cavaliers before and behind him, and people who held above his head an immense parasol resplendent with gold.

However, the sun, with his ardent beams, dried up the country, and the dusty road, quivering with his brightness, fatigued the eyes.

"It is a great advantage to be Emperor," cried the man, "when the heat of the day exhausts you, and the sun never ceases to make you feel his power! But if one could be the sun!"

"Behold! Are you satisfied?" the angel asked. For he had become the sun, and he darted his beams up and down, right and left, and all around him. And he scorched the herbage of the earth and the faces of the princes upon the earth.

But a cloud thrust itself between the earth and him; it held back the rays of the sun and prevented them from falling upon the earth's surface.

"There is strength," cried the sun—"a cloud capable of resisting my power. It would be better if I were a cloud."

And the transformation was at once accomplished. The new cloud placed itself haughtily between the sun and the earth, and so thoroughly intercepted the rays of the sun that it soon saw the earth covered with its shadow. Then it caused big drops of rain, and pouring showers and water-spouts to fall on the land, so that the torrents burst their bounds and the rivers spread over and devastated the fields.

Nothing resisted the force of the inundation; only a rock defied it, perfectly motionless. In vain the bellowing waters beat it in their fury, the rock yielded not, but the foaming waves died at its foot.

"A rock, then, is my superior," said the clouds; "I would rather be in its place."

"You shall be," said the angel.

And he was transformed into a steep unshaken rock, insensible to the rays of the sun, indifferent to the torrents of the tumultuous waves.

Nevertheless, he distinguished at his foot a man of poor appearance, hardly clothed, but armed with a chisel and a hammer, and the man with the help of these instruments, struck off pieces of the rock, which he dressed into stones proper for cutting.

"What is that?" cried the rock; "has a man the power of rending pieces of stone from my breast? Shall I be weaker than he? Then it is absolutely necessary that I should be that man!"

"Have your will!" said the angel, and he became again what he had been—a poor stone-cutter, a simple workman in the quarries. His life was rude, he worked much and gained little, but he was contented with his lot

☞"Vegetable pill!" exclaimed an old lady. "Don't talk to me of such stuff. The best vegetable pill ever made is an apple dumpling; for destroying a gnawing in the stomach there is nothing like it; it can be relied on."

☞A precocious boy in a public school out west, who stands high in geography, was recently asked by his teacher where Africa was situated. He promptly answered: "All over the United States."

☞Edmun Winston Henry, the younges and last surviving son of Patrick Henry, died recently in Charlotte County, Va. He was in the 79th year of his age.

Historical Memoranda.

Marshfield Sixty Years Ago.

Below we conclude our extracts from the lecture of Rev. Geo. Leonard, of East Marshfield, entitled „Marshfied sixty years ago:"

There were no *patent* or *quack medicines* for sale among us in those days. Now there is any quantity of them. They are advertised in the newspapers, at the stores and on the high-ways; and they are recommended as curing about all the diseases incident to humanity. Sometime ago I made out a long list of *patent medicines* recommended for their remarkable qualites. I noticed that, according to the advertisement, one would cure *eighteen* ailments, another *twenty*, and another *thirty-one*. You must have more faith than I have to believe anything of the kind. I will not condemn them all, for some of them may be useful, or at least harmless. The great majority advertised in the newspapers at the present day are humbugs, and every invalid would be better of without them than with them. Many of them contain alcohol, and by the use of them people are liable to form an appetite for strong drink. None of these medicines used to be had in Marshfield sixty years ago. People then got along very well without them, and I think they might now. I should have more confidence in an educated and skilful physician than in any of the advertised nostrums and curealls of the day.

Wages were formally very low compared with the same at the present day. Farmers worked for three or four shillings a day, carpenters at from seventy-five to a dollar. When I commenced to teach schoo', fifty-two years ago, the past winter I received only fifteen dollars per month and board. The next winter I received twenty dollars per month and boarded myself. Now female teachers often receive double these sums. *Board* was then low as well as wages. Some people would take the teacher to board in the summer for a dollar per week. The retail price of good flour was then only five dollars per barrel.

I can remember a *custom at funerals* when *home made beer* was passed round to all the people present, whether they were out doors or in the house. It was passed to *children* as well as to adults. The bearers were often invited back to the house after they had been to the grave, and were treated to wine and ardent spirits. There was no hearse in town in those days. The coffin containing the corpse, was placed on a bier and borne to the grave on men's shoulders. The color of coffins in those days was always black. I never saw a coffin of any other color while I was a boy. There were no *marble* grave stones; no grave stones which had a white appearance.

They had *military musters* in those days. A regiment, usually consisting of from eight to twelve companies, was required to meet once a year, at some central place for review and parade. Marshfield companies joined the regiments to which they belonged, at Holmes' Hill in Pembroke, and at Indian Pond, also in Pembroke; and there was once or twice since my remembrance a muster near Union Bridge in South Scituate. Men, women and children were all fond of attending musters. The spectators would out-number the troops. Cake and confectionary, punch and rum, were all sold on or near the muster grounds. On those occasions it was very common for some people to drink to excess and to become intoxicated. We used sometimes to hear of drunken fights at musters.

Within the last sixty years there has been progress in this town in the *Temperance Cause*. Some say that this cause has gone backwards or that it is not advancing. I suppose this is true for the last few years. It seems unhappily to have come to a stand. But including the whole time which I have mentioned we can perceive a great reform. Formally every man drank rum, more or less, including ministers, deacons and church members; but they did not generally drink to excess. People who employed men to work for them, whether on their farms or at carpentry, treated them with liquor at least twice a day. Eleven o'clock in the forenoon and four o'clock in the afternoon were the established hours for drinking. Rum was common on almost all occasions. It was used as a beverage when people were born, and when they died; when they labored, and when they were at rest; when it was hot, and when it was cold; when they had company, and when they were alone. It was considered good at any time and at all times. So far as Marshfield is concerned, I think ten people got drunk then where one does now. It was for sale in large quantities and in small quantities, by the glass and by the gallon. All who wanted it could get as much as they wanted, if they had the money to pay for it.

I Will now say a few words on *fashions*. These have very much changed, especially among the women. Men's hats vary in shape and style every few years, but women's bonnets or hats vary much more. I have known these to vary from the size of a water-pail down to that of a common tea-plate. If our great grandmothers could have seen the things which some ladies wear on their heads, they would not have known what they were made for. When men have a garment made, they can generally wear it out without its being out of fashion; but *ladies' dresses*, when but little worn and not even soiled, are frequently set aside or altered because they are getting out of style. Both men's and women's shoes have several times changed from round to square toes, and from square to round. At one time peaked-toed shoes were worn. I can remember when almost every married woman wore a cap, but now this covering of the head is but seldom seen. Gold beads were formally much worn by females, but now they are generally set aside.

Since people living in olden times had so few advantages compared with those enjoyed at the present day, it may be asked: What did they have? I answer, they had much to make them comfortable and happy. Living on coarse fare, they generally enjoyed good health, which is the greatest of earthly blessings. They had plenty of salt beef and pork and beans, cabbages, beets and turnips, codfish and potatoes; also Johnny cake and butter, apple-pie and cheese. They kept their children a good deal on bread and milk, which made them grow and rendered them healthy. They had to work hard to obtain a comfortable livelihood, but amidst all their privations they appeared to enjoy life. They were prudent and economical. They adapted themselves to their circumstances, and having no knowledge of many of the comforts and conveniences which we enjoy, they got along very well without them; but we should not like to go back to their condition, believing that ours is far preferable.

Great fires in Boston.

Boston was settled in 1630, seven years after Portsmouth. The first fire of any note was in 1631, the next year after the town was begun. It was great only relatively. There were but few dwellings in the place and it was distressing to have a fire. One or two buildings were burned. A chimney took fire and it communicated to a thatched roof, and that building, it no more, was destroyed.

In 1679 there was a terrible fire in which 30 dwellings, 70 warehouses and several shops were consumed. In 1702 a fire destroyed several buildings. The population was then 7,000.

In 1711 there was a great fire. It was Oct. 2d, and broke out in Williams Court, destroying most of the buildings on both sides of Cornhill, now Washington Street, from School Street to Market Square. One church was destroyed, that of the first Congregational Society, which stood where Joy's buildings now do. The Society erected another on the same spot, which stood till 1808. Then one was erected in Chauncey Place, and since in Berkley Street. While the house stood on Washington Street, Rev. Joshua Moody of Portsmouth, having been imprisoned and silenced by Gov. Cramfield, preached in it for a few years and then returned to Portsmouth again.

March 20, 1760, a fire spread in Cornhill, State and Congress Streets to Fort Hill. The number of dwellings burned was 174; and 175 warehouses and many other buildings.

April 24, 1787, a fire broke out in Beach St., extending south and destroying 60 houses, 40 other buildings, and the Hollis Street church. The population of the town was then about 18,000, not so large as Manchester in our State is now.

July 4, 1794, seven rope walks between Pearl and Atkinson Streets were burned, with about 90 other buildings in that section.

Nov. 3, 1818, the Boston Exchange Coffee House in Congress Square, seven stories high, with 210 apartments, the whole costing about half a million dollars, was destroyed.

July 7, 1824, 15 costly dwellings on Beacon, Charles and Chestnut Streets were destroyed. The same year 53 large warehouses in Doan Street and vicinity were consumed. The town had been incorporated a city two years before, and had a population of 43,000.

Later fires we need not notice as our account is of older times, but we will add as a chronical of old times that an account of the fire in 1711, above noted, passed into verse. There were 24 stanzas. We will give as a specimen one relating to the loss of the church, with the capital letters as printed.

"Thy ancient house where thy dear Saints
assembled in thy Name;
Thou gave-t as a Sacrifice
to the Consuming Flame."

Another refers to several lives lost, thus:

"With bru'sed and the Raging Flames
Those many lives were lost:
More worth than Houses and Choice Goods,
which many Thousands cost."

☞America has contributed thus far twelve large cases of books to the Strasbourg Library.

Our Young Folks' Column.

WHAT SHALL THE CHILDREN DO NEXT?

When 't is raining or snowing, or bitterly cold,
And the children are gathering within,
And they've read all the stories, both recent and old,
Played button, an I Simon, and sin;
When the house has been ransack'd for something
that's new,
Till mamma is pained and perplexed,
The question arises: Now what shall we do,
And what shall the children do next?

When they've played exhibition with blanket and
shawl,
Spread over the clothes bar so wide:
When rail-cars, constructed of chairs in the hall,
Have borne them safe home from the ride;
When the dog has been saddled, the kitten been yoked,
Until all are weary and vexed.
Again the same question arises;
Now what shall the children do next?

When they've been fighting battle betwixt blue and
gray,
And come home with each limb out of place.
And play Indians have taken the baby away
And pursuers have returned from the chase;
When all have recovered from sickness and pain
Through the doctor's skillful pretext,
Then, wearied of all, comes the question again:
On! what shall the children do next?

I'll tell you dear children, what you may do;
Sit down with a pencil and slate:
Make a line for each blessing that's given to you,
No matter how trifling or great;
Remember them all, not leaving out one—
For of, clothing, health, parents and friends,
The sweet night for rest when our day's work is done,
And every good thing that God sen-ls.

Then you've marked each blessing you know,
Cross each with a line for the ills—
Whatever surrounds you which causes you woe,
Or your heart with unhappiness fills;
Now number the lines with the crosses, and say
That your hearts have all learned a good text—
Life's blessings o'er balance the ills in our way;
This let the dear children do next.

How we Bought a Wagon.

Our father had been killed by a railroad accident, and Tom and I were left to support our mother. Father had bought us a fine young horse, and had intended to buy a wagon. We lived two miles from the city, and owned a twenty-acre farm. Having thoroughly cultivated three acres of it for the purpose of raising vegtables, we had more than our small family could use. Tom and I wanted to take some to market, and for that reason, among others, we needed a wagon.

"Perhaps Mr. Shepherd will lend us his until we are able to buy one," said I to Tom.

"Well, let's go and see about it," replied Tom. If we can get it, we shall want to take some things to-morrow."

We found the good man in his garden, fighting weeds, and I asked him about the wagon; to our great joy he consented to lend it to us, provided we would take good care of it.

Having procured the wagon, we prepared our things for market. Early next morning we started for the city, arriving there earlier than the other gardiners, succeeded in selling from the wagon nearly all our vegetables; the few that were left we disposed of at the groceries. I noticed that there were only a few fresh fish in the market that day, and they sold for a good price. On our way home I said to Tom "Shall we have time to go fishing this afternoon?"

"I guess so. We'll hurry home and see, any way."

Finding nothing to do at home, with ma's consent we started for a beautiful lake, a short distance from our home. On one shore lived Mr. Shepherd. He owned a small canoe, which he permitted us to make use of. It leaked so badly that one of us had to bail it out all the time; however, that was good exercise. Tom soon paddled out in the middle of the lake, where the water was very deep: the fish didn't bite very well at first, but when we had waited patiently an hour or two, they began to bite as fast as we could throw in our hooks.

At twelve o'clock we rowed to a shady bank on one side of the lake, to eat our lunch. When we had finished Tom threw his baited hook in the water close to the shore. I was about to do the same thing when he said, "Be quiet; I think I've got a bite." And sure enough he had; for suddenly his pole bent nearly double and his line cut through the water at a rapid rate.

"Come and help me; quick!" he cried, "or it will pull me in the lake."

I droped my pole and ran to help him, but got there to late. The fish had given a sudden jerk, and Tom was pulled into the water.

"Hold to it!" said I. "Get hold of the line and give me the pole."

He gave me the pole, and with our united strength we pulled a monstrous cat-fish on shore. I killed it to keep it from flapping out of the boat, meantime laughing at Tom's ludicrous plight, covered with mud and wringing wet. He soon became reconciled to his misfortunes, in spite of his dampened spirits, especially as the fish he had captured was a very fine one.

I threw my hook in the same place and waited for a bite, but didn't get any. Seeing what seemed to be a good place by an old snag about twenty yards from the shore, I climbed out on the limb of a tree that projected over the water, then droped my line in a little ripple close to the snag.

No sooner had I done this than the cork on my line bobbed under the water. I thought my lucky time had come, and gave a strong jerk. In my haste, I lost my hold of the tree and fell into the water. Luckily for me, it was shallow, and I was near the shore, for I was not the best of swimmers, and the fall nearly knocked the breath out of me. Holding to the pole, I managed to wade out, and pulling the supposed monster out of the water, was surprised to find it only a small bass.

It was now Tom's turn to fish, and you may be sure I didn't hear the last of the mishap very soon. We dried our clothing the best we could, then tried fishing from the boat again.—Before it was sundown we had caught several more fine fellows. As it was getting dark we started for home, as hungry and tired as two young fishermen could be.

If you had been at market next moning you would have found us there among the first, selling some very nice-looking fish to the many customers. We sold all we had, and could have sold twice as many more. Two days after we went fishing again, with still better success; and for the next two months went once or twice a week. On good market days, we made from three to four dollars, and when we had fish, two or three dollars more.

We made our mother treasurer of our savings, and in less than three months had enough to buy a good second-hand spring wagon which Mr. Shepard aided us in bargaining for. This is the way we bought a wagon.—Next spring, after school closes, we intend to enlarge our garden, and work in the same manner, earning all we can. By laboring and waiting a few years, we hope to have a fine large farm of our own, and that will be an independent fortune won.

Is our plan a good one?—*Our Young Folks.*

How to Make All the World Teetotalers.

'I say Bill, you ought to have been to the lecture last niget,' shouted a sprightly Band of Hope boy to a companion whom he recognized down the street.

—'Of cource I know I ought to have been there, if I could; but I couldn't: don't you see that? father had a special job to finish, and I staid at home to help him.'

'Well, you should have been there, it was jolly fun; and didn't he tell a crammer, that's all.'

'Who?' asked Bill.

'Why, the lecturer, certainly,' replied the first. 'What do you think he said? Why, he said if there's only one teetotaller in the world now, and he was to get one man to sign the pledge in a year and then both of them get one each the next year, and so on, each getting one a year, everybody in the world would be teetotallers in thirty years.'

'Did he say that? asked Bill, thoughtfully.

'He just did,' said the speaker, laughing; 'and if that isn't a crammer I don't know what is.'

'But,' said Bill, after a pause, 'perhaps it is true.'

'True! it can't be true. Why look here; at the end of the first year that would only be two, wouldn't there? the second year, only four; third only eight. Why, it would be a thousand years making the world teetotalers at that rate.'

'Stop a minute, while I run home after my slate,' said Bill. 'I'll soon work it out.'——

In a little time the boy returned; and sitting on a block of stone for a few minutes, he carefully wrote figures on his slate, and kept on multiplying, while his companion kept watching the passers-by.

'The lecturer was right though!' exclaimed Bill; just look here. I read the other day, that the people in all the world were reconed to be a thousand millions; and in thirty years, according to the lecturer's way of making them, there would be a thousand and seventy-three millions, seven hundred and forty-nine, eight hundred and twenty-four teetotalers; and that's more than there would be people.

'Nonsense, Bill.'

'Yes, there would; just look at the figures—1,073,744,824.'

'Well,' said the first, after looking at the slate a long while, 'I declare if it isn't right. I certainly thought it was a crammer; but it is not after all.'

'Then don't be in a hurry next time to doubt what the lecturer say,' said Bill.

And off the two young folks trotted, in search of amusement, till school-time.

"What's in a dress?" says a popular writer. Sometimes a great deal, and sometimes a precious little.

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